Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Jan. 1, 2016 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother

Vol. 46, Issue 1

Citizen helps tribe win landmark case— Page 6

Muscogee (Creek) citizen takes step into modeling industry — Page 7



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

County sheriff suspends agreement with Lighthorse

Okmulgee County halts MOU, MCN aims for cooperation

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As of Sept. 22, 2015, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department officers cannot legally take law enforcement actions when they venture off MCN sovereign tribal property into the Okmulgee County jurisdiction.

Okmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice has suspended the memorandum that establishes a cross-jurisdictional relationship between LTPD and his office.

Rice said his department was not being kept informed of Lighthorse activity on county lands and roads, which created a liability issue.

"The State of Oklahoma, we've had training as far as liability. The liability falls on Okmulgee County and the Sheriff's Department and me personally, as well," he said. "Anything that an officer does comes back on the department, on the county and me as the departmental head."

He would not give specific examples but said problems had occurred more than once when the county sheriff was not notified.

Rice said his office has asked that they be made aware of any

Agreement ~ 3

Protest hosted at MCN for Dollar General case



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held a protest rally Dec. 7, 2015 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., against the efforts of Dollar General in the Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians U.S. Supreme Court Case.

Emvpanayv — One who tells the story

Auctioned artifacts, Star Wars, OK tribal economic impact, Trudell

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

At the beginning of December 2015, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell met with French Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira about the selling of tribal sacred objects in auctions in France. Jewell asked for their help to repatriate those objects to their tribes of origin in the United States. France is one of the European nations that still allow such sales to continue. No word on how those talks went.

Now, if we could just get France to reverse the Louisiana Purchase (or admit it wasn't theirs to sell anyway.)

Something I noticed over the last couple of months — the Choctaws are getting some interesting media attention. First it was President Barack Obama going to see the tribe in July of this past year and I quote:

Emvpanayv ~ 4

Nation stands in solidarity with Mississippi Choctaw

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held a demonstration rally Dec. 7, 2015 to protest Dollar General's petition that tribal courts have no jurisdiction over non-Natives in civil cases.

According to the U. S. Supreme Court blog, www.scotusblog.com, the Supreme Court heard arguments Dec. 7, 2015 in the case of Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The Native Alliance Against Violence put out a fact sheet titled '5 Facts: The Dollar General Case.' The fact sheet explained that a minor was allegedly sexually assaulted by a store manager while employed at a Dollar General store, which is located on the tribe's reservation through a lease agreement to operate on the tribal land.

FVPP also held a quilt-making workshop Dec. 2, 2015 for survivors and advocates. The quilt squares were part of Quilt Walk for Justice held concurrently in Washington, D.C.

Several MCN tribal officials and representatives attended the quilt walk to stand in solidarity with the Mississippi Choctaw.

FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said the program wanted to show support locally.

"I hope there is a great showing [at the quilt walk]; I know from our tribe out in D.C. Obviously, not all of us can be in D.C.," Partridge said. "Regardless, we wanted to be able to participate in some way."

Partridge said at the Okmulgee rally, that because of criminal jurisdiction, the federal government would have had to prosecute the case but declined to file charges.

"That family, in order to seek justice for that child filed a civil law suit against Dollar General Corporation, which is not uncommon and happens a lot of times in these kinds of cases," Partridge said.

An NAAV fact sheet stated that the victim's family sued Dollar General for compensation for medical and trauma expenses. Dollar General has challenged the tribe's jurisdiction on the case.

In a Stanford Law School article about the case published Dec. 3, 2015 Stanford Assistant Professor of Law Gregory Ablavsky explained that the case was heard in the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which ruled that the Choctaw

Protest ~ 4

MCN District Court denies protective order on subpoenas

Committee to decide future proceedings

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a Nov. 30, 2015 order issued by Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler, he denied the petition for a protective order filed by MCN Executive Branch legal counsel Joe Williams on subpoenas issued by the MCN National Council Fact Finding Committee. The subpoenas were issued to several individuals to obtain further information in response to findings from the forensic audit of MCN.

The petition was aimed at 11 subpoenas for employees of the Housing Department, Treasury Department, Fleet Management, Information Technology Department, Public Relations Department, Family Violence Prevention Program, Human Resources Department, Office of the Principal Chief as well as a

Subpoenas ~ 3

MCN adopts free press legislation for Mvskoke Media

Muscogee (Creek) Nation introduces protections for tribal media

NAJA/*Media Release*

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) added free press protections for the tribe's media division, Mvskoke Media, with the passage of a free press act.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 15-218 by a unanimous vote of 14-0 during the Sept. 26, 2015 meeting at the tribal headquarters in Okmulgee, Okla. MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed the legislation into law Oct. 8, 2015.

The council cited access to information and a need for an independent media with stronger objective reporting by the tribe's media department as findings of support for the amendment.

Reps. Thomas Yahola, Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, David Nichols, Dode Barnett, Joyce Deere, Frank Coachman, Mark Randolph, Lucian Tiger, David Hill, Robert Hufft, James Jennings and Adam Jones co-sponsored the legislation.

The department includes a semi-monthly newspaper, weekly radio and television broadcasts and graphic design and printing services.

Mvskoke Media was previously organized under the tribe's executive branch.

Sterling Cosper, editor of the tribe's official newspaper, the 'Muscogee Nation News' (MNN), said the passage of the act is a positive first step toward an independent press.

"Officially confirming the fourth estate to the framework of our government is an imperative exercise in tribal sovereignty and self-governance," he said. "We intend to perpetuate this exercise by immediately utilizing the protective provisions of this bill to fulfill its purpose of bringing fair and balanced accounts of MCN affairs to the citizens."

Jason Salsman was named interim manager of the department earlier this year.

He is also the multimedia producer and host of 'Native News Today,' the only all-Native news format currently airing on network television in the state of Oklahoma.

"The citizens will get timely, pertinent news from credible journalists with excellent sources and documentation to back their work," Salsman said. "The fact that the fourth largest tribe in America will

Free ~ 8



Film screenshot
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program previewed a short version of their documentary titled, 'Never Give Up' Nov. 19, 2015 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Reintegration Program releases short documentary

Film documents the journeys of clients

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program previewed a short version of their documentary titled 'Never Give Up' Nov. 19, 2015 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The film is focused on individuals who have been through the program and how their lives have benefited and changed.

"What this details is a little bit about our program and what we do; kind of our philosophy," RiP Manager Tony Fish said. "It gives real life testimony from some of our actual clients that's been through the program and how the program has helped them."

> **"What this details is a little bit about our program and what we do; kind of our philosophy."**
>
> **— MCN RiP Manager Tony Fish**

One of the clients in the film tells of how he was sentenced to 70 years but was able to get out early and find a job because of the program.

"A lot of people are scared to get into a program like this… something like this would help them out," RiP client Elisha Watashe said in the film.

In the film, Watashe tells a story of how he told his young daughter to never give up and in turn, she encouraged her friend to do the same.

"Our beliefs here at the program are, we believe everyone is important, even an ex-prisoner," Fish said. "We believe people are capable of change and we believe through our efforts that we can restore them back into the atmosphere of healing and forgiveness; that we can reclaim our people and set them on the right track."

The mission of RiP is to protect the public by offering quality re-entry services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and re-invest positive citizens back into the community.

The program provides services to eligible citizens that have been incarcerated to help them transition back into society.

Fish said RiP was established in 2005 and MCN is the first tribe in the United States to have a reintegration program. The RiP staff has grown from four employees to 14 and has seen hundreds of clients over the past 10 years.

Fish said tribes have taken notice of their success and have or are in the process of starting a program modeled in a similar fashion.

"We helped the Chickasaw Nation set their reintegration program up. I just recently helped the Choctaw Nation set their program up," he said.

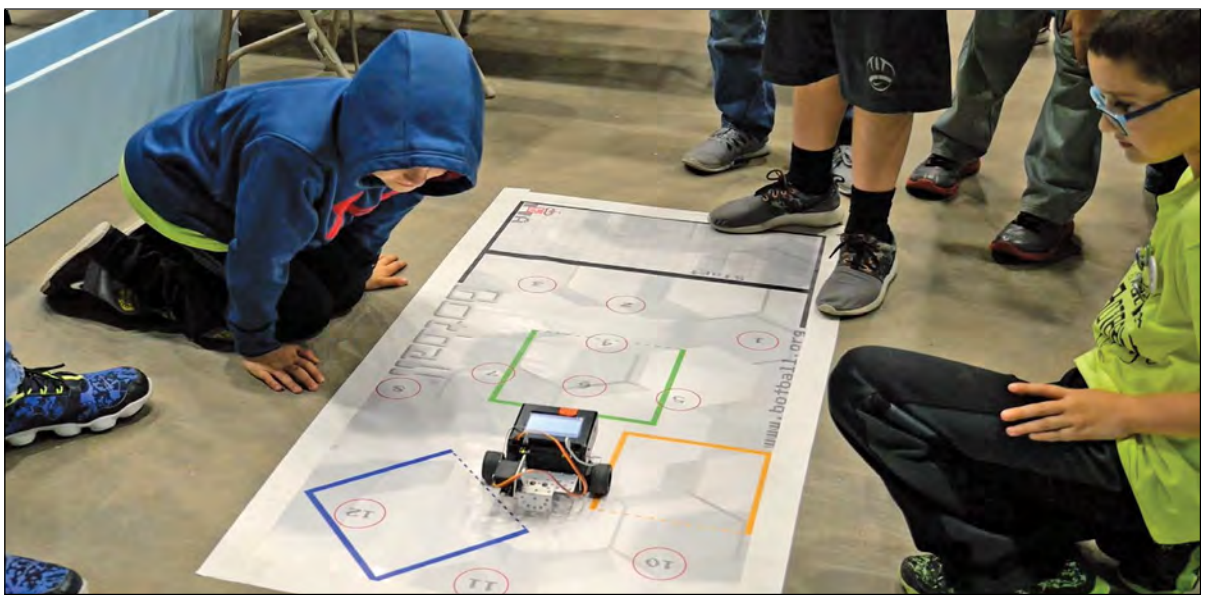
The film was sponsored by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and directed by Sterlin Harjo.

The film is also being shown at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The full version of the documentary will be released at a later date.

For more information call RiP at: 918-652-2676.

2nd Muscogee (Creek) Nation Junior Botball Challenge held



Native News Today
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in collaboration with the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics hosted the 2nd MCN Junior Botball Challenge Nov. 12, 2015 at the Tulsa Expo Square Pavilion in Tulsa, Okla.

Nation supports program designed to improve students' futures

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in collaboration with the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics hosted the 2nd MCN Junior Botball Challenge Nov. 12, 2015 at the Tulsa Expo Square Pavilion in Tulsa.

There were 147 teams made up of students ranging from first-eighth grades that competed in 10 challenges.

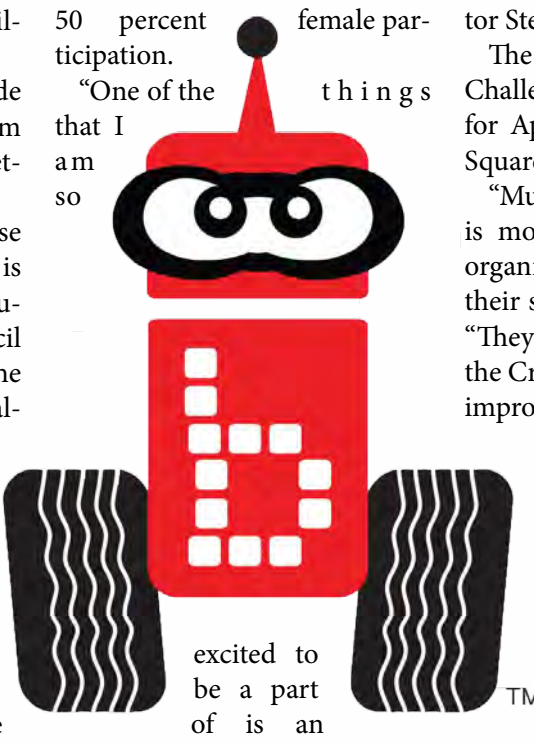
"One of the reasons we chose the Junior Botball Challenge is because it's an ongoing curriculum," MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett said. "The challenge is the students challenging themselves. It challenges the children to learn the coding and they're really competing with themselves. They're not competing with anybody else."

Out of the 67 public school districts that are in the MCN jurisdiction, 44 schools were represented the day of the challenge.

According to the Botball website, the programs will focus on implementing the Junior Botball Challenge by providing professional development for educators that is motivating to their students as they apply content skills in a meaningful hands-on way and encourages them to think about and consider STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees and careers.

Barnett was introduced to Botball while attending a conference in the summer of 2014 and brought the idea back to MCN. The Council passed NCA 14-203 during the Dec. 20, 2014 Council regular session, appropriating $94,353 to implement the program to be administered by the MCN Department of Education and Training.

To be eligible for a grant from MCN to implement the program, the school district must be within the tribal jurisdiction and have third-seventh grade students make up a team of four to 12, consisting of at least 50 percent Muscogee (Creek) students with a minimum of 50 percent female participation.



"One of the things that I am so excited to be a part of is an initiative that would require the participation of young girls, our young women because girls are being left behind in these STEM initiatives," acting Secretary for the MCN Department of Education and Training Dwanna Robertson said.

All schools are encouraged to apply for the grant, even if the criteria is not met because they are considered on a case-by-case basis.

"We're building a unique relationship with the school districts because they know we're investing in the school district itself, in the teachers that work with our children every single day, especially in our rural districts," Barnett said.

MCN is the first tribe to partner with the KISS Institute to give Muscogee (Creek) youth the opportunity to gain STEM knowledge.

"Creek Nation National Council and the chief had the foresight to see what the program is and they're looking down the road and seeing what the future jobs are for the Creek students. That's why they're supporting it," KISS Institute Executive Director Steve Goodgame said.

The next MCN Junior Botball Challenge event is scheduled for April 30 at the Tulsa Expo Square Pavilion.

"Muscogee (Creek) Nation is more supportive than most organizations in supporting their students," Goodgame said. "They're proactive in supporting the Creek students and trying to improve their education."

The event is free and open to the public and is open to all registered Junior Botball Challenge teams.

For more information about the MCN Junior Botball Program, visit: www.facebook.com/mcnjuniorbotball. For more information about the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, visit www.kipr.org or www.juniorbotballchallenge.org.

According to the Botball website, the programs will focus on implementing the Junior Botball Challenge by providing professional development for educators that is motivating to their students as they apply content skills in a meaningful hands-on way and encourages them to think about and consider STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees and careers.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association President Geri Wisner presented Angel Tree Project Coordinator Beky Baker with a $1,000 check to aid the program Nov. 5, 2015 at the Children and Family Services Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

MCN Bar Association looks for ways to help community

President hopes to set legal legacy

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association summarized mission statement is to support the MCN Judicial System, sponsor and engage training opportunities for MCN Bar members and lawyers in Indian Country and advocate for Native American social, political, cultural and legal issues.

Newly elected MCNBA President Geri Wisner wants to find ways to assist MCN and its citizens.

The bar association donated $1,000 to the MCN Angel Tree program Nov. 5, 2015 and is considering providing scholarships in the future.

"We're looking at scholarships either for Indian law students or a Creek law student or students, if we can find them, to either help with books or assist some toward the bar prep," Wisner said.

Wisner feels that as Muscogee (Creek) people, there is a responsibility to assist others.

"I didn't get here by myself and you know, I stood several times at the community center waiting for that commodity truck," Wisner said. "There is that responsibility to give back, whether it's you know in your community or even in the profession."

Wisner drew a connection between pre-Removal battles and modern law.

"Traditionally speaking in the whole sense of fighting, you know for the Muscogees. It was Horseshoe Bend, Macon, Georgia, Alabama/Georgia where our homelands were," Wisner said. "Looking at where we are right now, when people want to either fight or they want to either protect their rights… it goes to the court room."

> **"I like to think we get our best Muscogee attorneys together and we best represent ourselves knowing who we are and where we come from."**
>
> **— MCN Bar Association President Geri Wisner**

Wisner likened the social and legal progress of tribes to a football game with the ancestors advancing five yards at a time on the field.

"Every five yards there was the ancestors or the people on the trail, people who stuck it through you know, being called names and all the things," Wisner said.

Wisner said she hopes to contribute five yards and that there will be someone she can pass the ball to afterwards. She also said she would like to see more Muscogee (Creek) attorneys.

"I would like to see a lot more Indians, a lot more Muscogees who are practicing law," Wisner said. "I like to think we get our best Muscogee attorneys together and we best represent ourselves knowing who we are and where we come from."

MCNBA has approximately 300 members, but Wisner is hoping membership will increase.

"Any way that we can help, that's what we are looking to do, but it's a whole lot easier if we have more like minded and, you know because there are only so many hours in the day and this kind of work doesn't tend to lend itself easily into a 40 hour week," Wisner said.

Wisner said the Bar Association is open to both Natives and non-Natives.

In order to be eligible to join MCNBA, one must have passed the bar exam and currently be in good standing with a bar.

For more information about the MCN Bar Association, visit: www.creeksupremecourt.com/index.php/bar-assoc.

Subpoenas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

former employee from the Employment and Training Department.

The topics to be discussed by the subpoenaed individuals included alleged inappropriate activities and use of funds, alleged inappropriate activity with the Nation's servers and sexual harassment policy and procedures. The subpoenas also requested documentation including financial records, contracts and housing records for specified Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Bigler heard from both sides in court Sept. 28, 2015.

In his decision, Bigler states that the burden of proof lies with the petitioners.

The petition's objections to the subpoenas included that the Council was not a law enforcement or prosecuting agency, testimony could violate the rights against self-incrimination, records requested contained confidential information and the topic of discussion of each subpoena was not specific.

The decision outlines the right of the legislative branch to investigate matters as it relates to conducting its duties in creating and amending law.

'Council asserts it is investigating sexual harassment, what could be done legislatively to address and prevent further instances of embezzlement and the inappropriate use of funds. Each of these three goals are legitimate legislative concerns,' the decision states.

The decision states the legislative branch has a right to hold meetings without executive branch legal counsel present.

'These due process rights are the rights on individuals and not of the branches of government. Just as in Congress, the legislative branch has a legitimate concern that individual testimony is not chilled when it seeks information that is contrary to the positions taken by other branches or departments of government,' the decision states.

In the matter of record confidentiality, the decision states that the Council has claimed that testimony is/will be conducted in executive session and that documents provided will not be disclosed and thus addresses the confidentiality concern.

The decision compares the subpoenaed topics of discussion to typical subpoenas issued by the U.S. House of Representatives.

'The Court also finds that the subpoenas are sufficiently detailed as to the subject matter of the hearings,' the decision states.

Other matters raised by the petition concern delivery of the subpoenas in accordance with the timelines set for them by to the MCN Code Annotated, and addressing individuals in their official capacities at MCN or as individuals.

The decision relays that the subpoenas will need to be reissued since the date on the documents has lapsed, and so new subpoenas will be able to address those matters.

Council Fact Finding Committee Chairperson Dode Barnett said that the committee had not decided whether or not to reissue the subpoenas.

"… As a whole, the committee just has not decided when we will proceed, but have verbalized that they want to proceed and continue to have the conversations surrounding the subpoenas," Barnett said.

Barnett said that the committee will need to consider the notice required by the MCN Code to issue the subpoenas prior to the testimony date, and how that corresponds with the upcoming holidays.

When the new Council session begins in January, all of the committees have the potential to change members and leadership roles. Barnett said that the committee may decide to reissue the subpoenas at that time.

Agreement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

such police activity so that they have a record of it.

"One of the big issues that we have is that our office is required by state and federal law that we have to report all crime statistics into a certain database," Rice said. "If we don't get those, we can't enter them; therefore we're in dereliction of duty because we're not entering those calls."

Lighthorse is the law enforcement agency for MCN, patrolling and safeguarding trust and restricted land. Any law enforcement activity off of trust or restricted land must be performed under an MOU agreement with the county.

His department, Rice said, was trying to perform its obligations to everyone who lived within Okmulgee County, whether they were Muscogee (Creek) citizens or not.

"If they (Lighthorse) pulled somebody over, if they left the parking lot of, we'll say the casino and pulled onto a county road or onto a highway, then it falls into a state jurisdiction," Rice said.

Rice said he sent a letter to the Okmulgee County Commissioner's Office, Okmulgee County District Attorney Rob Barris, LTPD Chief of Police Richard Fixico and the MCN Attorney General's Office stating that he was suspending the MOU.

Such legal agreements have allowed these law enforcement agencies to share resources and personnel when needed.

Rice explained that his office has taken measures to address liability concerns internally and the MOU with LTPD was suspended to do the same.

"We've had to change some of the stuff we do as the sheriff's department to lighten that liability and we need to do the same thing with Lighthorse. Anything that they do off of sovereign land, if they turn the lights on, that falls underneath Okmulgee County solely," Rice said. "We're going to have to do some training or something like that so they understand the liability as well."

Other sheriff's departments in and around the tribal jurisdiction do not have similar agreements in place.

The Muskogee County Sheriff's Office reported that expectations for such an agreement had been in the works in 2013 and 2014 but no final document was forthcoming from Lighthorse. The office reported that they would be receptive to such an agreement in the future.

The Hughes County Sheriff's Office stated they do not have such an agreement in place either.

A representative from that office said that Lighthorse wanted an agreement to give authority to all its officers when in Hughes County jurisdiction, but that was something that the sheriff there would not agree to.

Okfuskee County is another jurisdiction that does not have an agreement, according to its Sheriff's Office.

The Wagoner County Sheriff's Office said the only agreement they could find on file was concerning the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program, dating some years back.

Fixico said that they worked cooperatively with the law enforcement agencies in those counties with signed MOUs, and that those agreements were to protect public safety.

In situations such as preventing crimes from taking place in their presence or traffic accidents where life was endangered, Fixico said, they would take action to assist but leave the actual legal arrest and prosecution to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and that included Okmulgee County.

For example, he explained, in a situation where two non-Indians might be fighting in a tribal casino parking lot, Lighthorse would act to stop the fight, but call in the law enforcement department with jurisdiction in that area to follow through.

He said Lighthorse had some cooperative agreements such as one with the Tulsa Police Department but some agencies were not interested in a formal cross-jurisdictional agreement.

"We would like to, but some agencies are not interested," Fixico said.

As for the Okmulgee Sheriff's Office, Fixico said that they did act on some situations regarding crimes and emergencies.

When appropriate, he said Lighthorse called the Okmulgee Sheriff's Office to have them conduct arrests. He added that they worked on public safety issues but notified the appropriate counties.

When asked if Lighthorse would pursue an MOU between his department and other law enforcement in and around MCN Fixico said, "We as a law enforcement agency want to work with all the state agencies we can."

He said he would like to speak with the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office about such an arrangement, but would wait until the new principal chief had taken office.

During an interview with 'Native News Today' at the beginning of December 2015, Principal Chief Elect James Floyd said he would work to re-establish the agreement.

"Already, I've met with the sheriff of Okmulgee County. He and I have had a couple of discussions about," Floyd said. "Fortunately, I've worked for the tribe when we began to put those memorandums in place back in the '80s so I know the value of them."

He discussed the challenges of and need for cooperation with shared jurisdiction.

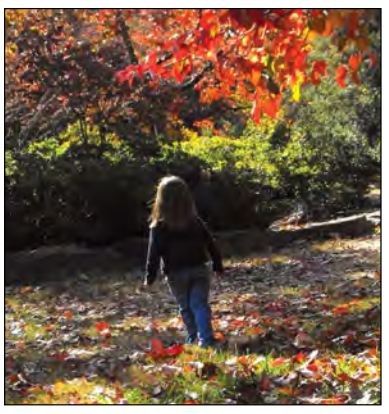
"I know that…what they bring both to the tribe and to the county in law enforcement because of the complexities of the different overlapping jurisdictions and the need for resources in times of criminal activity and things like that," Floyd said. "You need all the resources that you can gather. So, we need the county just as much as the county needs the tribe."

Floyd outlined how he would address the issue with LTPD.

"We explain to our Lighthorse administration what our role is. Probably the sheriff will come out and be with me," he said. "We'll jointly talk to our staff about that and what we need to do and how we need to act under the memorandum and how they will act as well."

Floyd voiced intention to get on a similar level with other agencies within the MCN jurisdiction.

Program stresses need for Native American foster parents



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) citizens needed for temporary placement

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration wants help with locating homes for Muscogee (Creek) foster children through their Resource Home and Recruitment Training program.

"We are looking for caring families who want to help our children and provide a place for them to stay," MCN RHRT Manager Holly Dunn said.

The program has five foster homes and they are full.

"The homes now cannot take anymore children," Manager for the MCN Foster Care and Adoption Certification Placement Program Robyn Wind said. "They are at their maximum capacity."

Dunn said they are starting recruitment to get more families for the children.

"We will be going to all the community centers very soon to talk to people who we hope will be interested," Dunn said. "We want to get the word out that we need foster parents."

The program understands that there are some stigmas associated with foster parenting such as fear of the unknown.

"Some of the families feel that they do not know what they are getting into when they take our children into their homes," Dunn said. "I think that is what they are afraid of."

Dunn wants the people to know they will have support and the program will be there every step of the way.

"We are not going to leave them alone," Dunn said. "We are going to be with them and do everything possible to help them."

Wind understands that some families do get attached to the children and it is hard to give them up when the time comes.

"We can understand that," Wind said. "We know that is rough for the family but our main goal for a foster family is to provide a home for the child if they are not able to be in their own home with their biological family, for whatever reason."

Wind said the families do not have to be a couple.

There can be single parent foster families also.

"If you feel that you want to be a foster parent, please let us know," Wind said. "You do not have to be married."

She also said there are different types of foster homes.

"We have a desperate need for families who will take a child for overnight or a weekend." Wind said.

Dunn said potential candidates will go through a background check and home assessment to make sure that their house is suitable for children.

"They will need to get ahold of us and fill out an application and we will have them go through a background check, home assessment and a home visit," Dunn said.

For more information, call CFSA at: 918-732-7869.

"If you are interested and want to know more about being a foster parent, please give us a call," Dunn said. "We will answer any questions about foster parenting."

Protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

court had jurisdiction to hear the case, but Dollar General appealed to the Supreme Court.

Ablavsky stated that this case is important.

'At the core, the case is about a central issue concerning Native nations in the United States and the recognition of their sovereignty under federal law,' Ablavsky said. 'Questions of jurisdiction often seem abstract and technical, but for Native nations and their citizens these are often life and death situations.'

Ablavsky went on to explain that in 1978, the Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian case ruling stripped Native Nations of the ability to try non-Natives in criminal trials, the result of which led to widespread sexual violence toward Natives perpetrated by non-Natives.

'Removing criminal jurisdiction in Oliphant contributed to a disastrous epidemic of sexual violence,' Ablavsky said.

An attempt to reverse this occurred in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which had provisions to address the issue.

A summary of the provisions can be viewed at: www.tribal-institute.org/lists/title_ix.htm.

MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett spoke at the rally about tribal jurisdiction.

"This is absolutely so vital to our jurisdiction, to protecting our people," Barnett said. "It has always been crazy to me how someone can think that they can come where we exist, hurt our people and get away scot free and think we don't have the right to do anything about that."

Ablavsky stated in the Stanford article that the Oliphant ruling did not extend to civil cases. He also referenced the ruling of United States v. Montana to say there were two instances when civil jurisdiction applies.

'When the non-Natives had entered into a consensual relationship with the tribes or its members and when non-Native conduct implicated the tribe's political integrity, economic security or health and welfare,' Ablavsky said.

Partridge said the National Congress of American Indians and others have filed briefs to support the Mississippi Choctaw as well as the victim and their family.

As part of that effort, Muscogee (Creek) citizen and attorney Sarah Deer along with Cherokee Nation citizen and fellow attorney Mary Kathryn Nagle filed an amici curiae brief (someone who is not a party to the litigation, but who believes that the court's decision may affect its interest) on behalf of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and other advocacy groups.

This brief was posted on the SCOTUS blog.

During the rally, MCN Policy Analyst and Self-Governance Officer Brenda Golden said this case has an impact on all Native people.

"In this case, they are stripping tribes of the ability to administer justice and that strips all of us of our rights, you know, our basic human rights," Golden said. "Once that authority is taken away, it will diminish our ability to govern ourselves, to rule ourselves and to get justice for our people."



Emvpanayv

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Oklahoma! (Applause.) Halito! (Hello in Choctaw.)

AUDIENCE: Halito!

PRESIDENT: Everybody, please have a seat. Have a seat. It's good to see you. How is everybody doing? (Applause.) First of all, Michelle says hi. (Laughter.) And I want to thank all of you for helping to build the terrific partnership that we share with the Choctaw Nation.

Lately, it was the standout quarterback of the Oklahoma Sooners, Baker Mayfield, on a TV show greeting the audience with 'Halito.' He's taking a Choctaw language class at OU.

Were you in line to see the new 'Star Wars' movie? I love those flicks, but I wasn't fanatic enough to spend days waiting for a movie. Camping out on hard sidewalks in front of a movie theater just isn't my (or my kidneys') style. In fact, I just stepped down from my 'Star Wars' costume days and sold four uniforms. I do still have some memories and collectibles, but nothing like what some of the Navajos got.

Pendleton Woolen Mills announced back in September that five blankets were commissioned featuring 'Star Wars' characters. (Now, how did I miss that one?)

According to the 'Navajo Times,' those Pendletons were brought to and sold at a trading post in Dine' land. The paper said the blankets were incredibly popular and sold out in about a day. Boy, you really have to want one, though. The price tag is about $250. How 'bout that, 'Star Wars' and Pendletons, what a combination!

Why Navajo? Just a reminder — there is a Dine' (Navajo) language version of 'Star Wars: A New Hope' on DVD.

Here's an interesting idea.

According to the 'Yamhill Valley News-Register,' the tribal flag of the Grande Ronde reservation was hung in the Willamina, Ore., community's high school gym.

It wasn't an easy thing to do, but the tribal flag joins the national and state flags in addition to a POW/MIA flag. One local official cited the University of Oregon, where the nine flags from the state's federally recognized tribes are displayed around the Erb Memorial Union Amphitheater.

An interesting thought, huh, perhaps worth looking into locally? Think Okmulgee would go for it? Just wondering.

Here we go again, locally, on a well-worn subject.

It looked like the planned American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City was clearing the last of its hurdles for completion — but it's not to be. The state legislature said they had given all the bucks they were going to and turned the project over to Oklahoma City to be finished.

Well, it seems that OKC is not happy about the rising costs of finishing and then operating the project. Nothing seems to be working for the museum.

On the site, there are problems with interference with underground utility lines. It sits in the middle of the site, limiting room for other development that is supposed to provide additional financial support.

It would be nice to see the thing finished, but aren't these the kinds of things that should have been dealt with at the beginning?

Speaking of 'oh yeah,' the 'Tulsa World' has editorialized against the project.

And in further news, this fall, U.S. Rep. and Cherokee Nation citizen Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., introduced the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act, combining Native American tourism with federal tourism plans.

The Congressman said, "Native American culture is known and celebrated among Oklahomans, and it is important that we share our heritage with people from all over the world."

Hey, would you be interested in a museum in OKC?

According to the Annual Impact Report for 2015 from the Oklahoma Tribal Government Gaming Commission, the output from all of the state's tribal gaming was $4.2 billion in 2014, representing 2.5 percent of private production in the Oklahoma economy. That's quite an economic boost.

Tribal gaming operations and related facilities supported 23,277 ongoing jobs in 2014 of which 83.2 percent were full-time positions. Annual wages, salaries and tips of almost $910 million were paid to those folks. There were annual employee benefits of almost $255 million including health care, dental and life insurance, as well as retirement plans.

In 2014, Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Operations and their employees paid out more than $264 million in payroll related taxes including almost $30 million in income taxes to the State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma tribes have paid the state a total of $980 million in exclusivity fees since 2006.

Some sad news in December 2015, an old friend passed away. John Trudell, Santee Sioux writer, poet, musician and activist passed on.

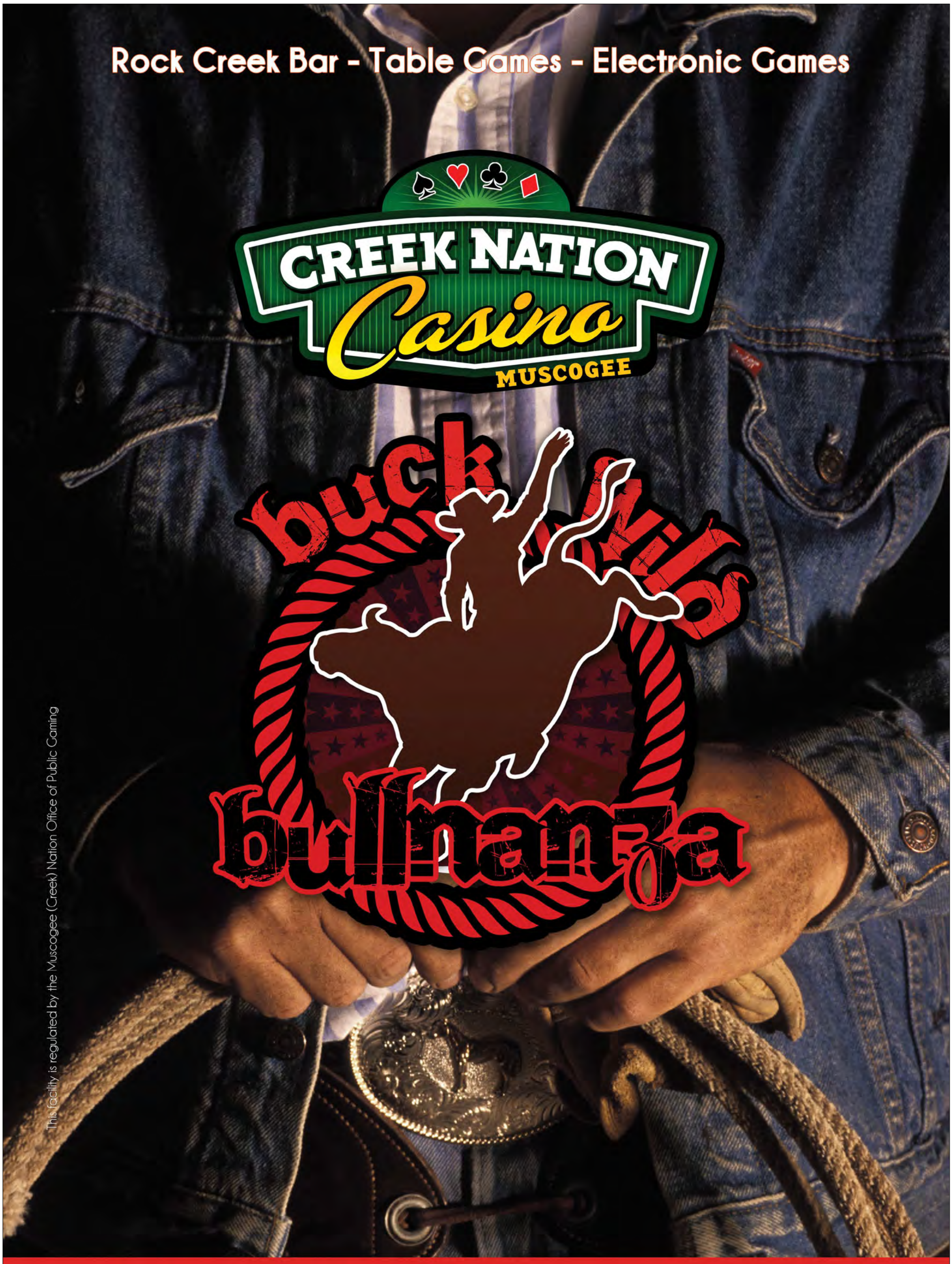
There are many articles and presentations honoring Trudell and his work and I'm glad to see many Native folks, leaders and national personalities remembering him from the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz to his part in the American Indian Movement in the '70s, plus his poetry, movie career and musical releases.

I got to know him during the dynamic days of early Indian activism in college and watched his activities on behalf of Native American peoples. I last saw him months ago during an event at the Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa. We agreed to catch up for an interview for 'Mvskoke Radio,' but, understandably, his schedule and mine never seemed to work out. A pity. Rest In Peace, John Trudell.

It's a new slate for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. A new Principal Chief, James Floyd, is busy taking over the reins of government.

Citizens are wondering what will happen in terms of his plans and the choices for who is going to be around to run the government. Floyd's statements have been cautious about such subjects. The word 'evaluate' has been heard. There are major tribal economic developments in the works. Citizens are curious about what will happen to them. Quite a challenge awaits you Chief Floyd. Best wishes for your administration.

Enough for now, Hvtvm Cehecares — I'll see you again.



Saturday January 23rd NOON - 8:00PM

Every Diamond Club participant will receive a $5 match play.

Hot Seat Blitz Drawings

Ten (10) $10 free play drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes beginning at NOON and ending at 8:00PM.

Electronic Ticket Drawings

One (1) electronic drawing ticket with every 100 points earned from January 1st - 23rd. One (1) $500 electronic ticket drawing at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes from NOON – 8:00PM.

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Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: Kyra Epperson

Epperson inspired by program, stepfather

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Kyra Epperson as the September 2015 Explorer of the Month.

Epperson is a 17-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen from Okemah and a senior at Okemah High School.

Through the program, the explorers learn to develop leadership skills and build character.

"I wanted to make a difference in our community… I just wanted to make a difference and help people," Epperson said.



Chelsie Rich/MNN
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Kyra Epperson as the September 2015 Explorer of the Month.

Epperson was first introduced to the program by her stepfather, Jason Bleeker when she was in the eighth grade.

"You don't have to be scared to show what you want to do," she said. "After I got here and I met everybody, it just feels like family."

> **"I wanted to make a difference in our community… I just wanted to make a difference and help people."**
>
> **— September 2015 Lighthorse Explorer of the Month Kyra Epperson**

Epperson has been involved in the program for four years.

"It's a great experience to learn about your culture, about how law enforcement works… It's just a great way to meet people," she said.

She recalled one of her most memorable moments while in the program, which was a trip to Mississippi.

"It was fun; we had a blast… We met their chief. Went to a carnival; met a bunch of people and on the way back, stopped at a reservation," Epperson said.

She hopes to inspire others to join.

'They'll help you with anything, even if you don't want to learn about law enforcement. They'll help you with whatever you want to get into," Epperson said.

She spoke of her stepfather as an inspiration.

"He's not afraid to tell you what you're doing wrong but if your doing good, he'll tell you that too," Epperson said. "When I was sick, he was there. When I was feeling sad, he would always try to cheer me up."

Epperson initially thought about going into law enforcement after high school but a knee injury made her rethink her decision and she now wants to go into physical therapy.

Epperson would like to attend Bacone College in Muskogee and major in exercise science.

Epperson is involved in softball and basketball and is the daughter of Bleeker and Cassia Epperson of Okemah.

Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: William Bear

Bear uses leadership skills in different life aspects

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced William Bear as the October 2015 Explorer of the Month. Bear is a 17-year-old from Okmulgee and a junior at Okmulgee High School.

Bear has been involved in the program for four years.

"I joined it because I wanted to learn more about police force and how many different subjects there are and what kind of stuff they do," Bear said.

Bear shared what he has learned through the program.

"I learned a lot. I learned to trust people. I learned to stand out in front of groups of people," Bear said. "You have to be more interactive with people and helpful."

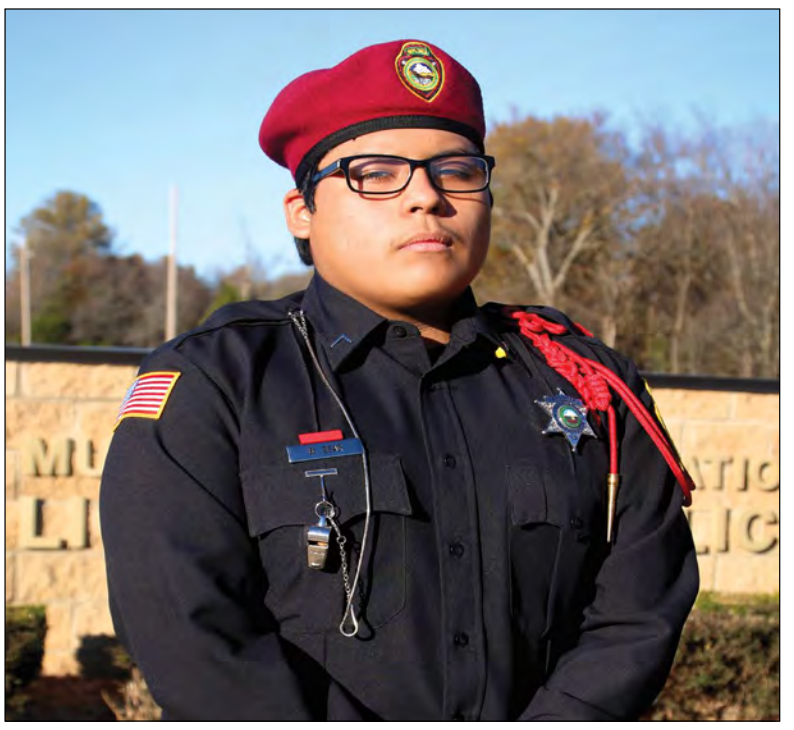
Bear has received his two-year tenure pin and was named to the color guard.

"I present the flags at basketball games and ceremonies," Bear said.

> **"I've seen myself change by being more mature and to be more respectful and to be patient."**
>
> **— October 2015 Lighthorse Explorer of the Month William Bear**

One of the Bear's best memories was when he presented the flags during the Bicentennial Commemoration Program for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend March 27, 2014 at Horse Bend National Military Park in Daviston, Ala.

"I presented colors down there… It felt great!" Bear said.



Chelsie Rich/MNN
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced William Bear as the October 2015 Explorer of the Month.

Through the years that Bear has been involved, he has noticed a change in himself.

"I've seen myself change by being more mature and to be more respectful and to be patient," Bear said.

Bear looks to his program advisor and MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Meth Initiative Officer/Investigator Daniel Wind for guidance.

"He's there for us. He's a good listener. He's been there for me in points in my life when I've needed somebody and I trust him," Bear said.

Outside of the program, Bear takes his leadership skills to his ceremonial ground.

"I like to go to stompdances and lead dances," Bear said. "It's kind of nervous but I've been doing if for a while so I'm use to it. I'm still learning some songs."

Bear plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., after high school but is still uncertain about what he wants to study.

"I try to do really good in school, just to try to be at a certain grade so I can go to college," Bear said.

Bear is of Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole decent, a member of the Bird Clan, Muddy Waters as well as New Tulsa Ceremonial Grounds and the son of Patrick and Lisa Bear of Okmulgee.



Photo submission
The Quileute Nation and other signatory tribes of its treaty who were involved in the United States v. Washington fishing rights case had a celebration July 19, 2015 for their victory in the litigation, which featured Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren King acting as lead counsel for the tribe.

L to r: King, Quileute council member, Vince Penn and Quileute Tribal Chairwoman Naomi Jacobson.

Citizen helps tribe win landmark case

King named lead counsel on fishing rights case

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren King has always wanted to be someone that helps others, especially American Indian citizens and their tribes.

Growing up, she was taught her culture by her father, Jeff King and grandmother, Mvskoke veteran Anna King. She said both were a big influence on how she wanted her life to be.

"She taught me as a tribal member and as someone who knew the history of not only our culture but of other Native American tribes," Lauren said. "It was my responsibility to give back and serve Native Americans if not, my tribe."

She said her father, like her grandmother, made sure to raise her and her brothers to know their culture as well as that of other tribes.

Lauren said hearing stories from Anna that were handed down by their family about the Trail of Tears gave her a deeper understanding about the generational trauma it caused.

"It would make her cry to talk about that," Lauren said. "It gave me a deep appreciation of all traditions we can learn from our elders."

> **"It was the most pressure I have ever felt and the best I have ever felt with the win. It has meant everything to my career."**
>
> **— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren King**

Lauren is a lawyer who works for Foster Pepper PLLC out of Washington State.

Lauren represented the Quileute Nation, from La Push, Wash., in their case to retain fishing rights.

According to an article from www.foster.com, in 2009, the Makah Indian Tribe sued the Quileute Tribe and the Quinault Indian Nation in United States v. Washington, seeking to dramatically cut back where in the ocean the Quileute and Quinault could fish.

"After a couple of years working with them," Lauren said. "We were working so well together that they hired me as lead counsel on this case."

The article said that at stake, were the western boundaries for the Quileute and Quinault in the Pacific Ocean, as well as the northern boundary of the Quileute's treaty fishing grounds.

Treaty fishing boundaries are determined based upon where a tribe customarily fished and before treaty times, which were the 1850s for the Quileute. Evidence drawn from linguistics, archaeology, marine biology and anthropology was presented at trial to prove where the Quileute fished.

"It was a 22-day trial," Lauren said, "We set the record for the longest time a witness has been on a stand in the Western District of Washington."

The U.S. District Court of the Western District of Washington ruled July 9, 2015 in favor of the Quileute Nation after a lengthy 23-day bench trial that ended in April 2015. The court heard testimony from 11 witnesses and admitted 472 exhibits comprised of thousands of pages.

The article stated that during the trial, the Makah Tribe argued for the Quileute to have a fishing limit at five to 10 miles offshore while the State of Washington argued that they should have a four-mile limit.

After considering all of the testimony and evidence, the court ruled that the Quileute would have the right to fish in the ocean out to 40 miles offshore and as far north as Cape Alava.

Lauren spoke about the ruling and how she felt about it.

"It might be the highlight of my entire career," Lauren said. "It was the most pressure I have ever felt and the best I have ever felt with the win. It has meant everything to my career."

She spoke about the differences between the Mvskoke and Quileute cultures.

"They are very different cultures but at the base level of having a reverence for elders and maintaining the cultural practices, they are the same," Lauren said. "When it comes to songs, language, they are of their own."

Lauren said the language of the Quileute is what they call a language isolate, which means it does not resemble or sound similar to any other languages.

"Their language played a role in the case," Lauren said. "I had to learn a little bit of the words and work with their expert linguist."

Lauren wants to continue to help the Quileute Tribe and other Nations as well.

She also talked about how she wanted to honor her grandmother by winning the case for her.

"I want to honor her memory," Lauren said. "For everything she has taught me."

Lauren is now up for partner at her firm. The Quileute Tribe has other issues going on that she will be helping with and preparing for.

"I want to make partner," Lauren said. "I want to continue working with tribes and work with Creek Nation and I am exploring ways to do that."

Lauren is of the Sweet Potato Clan and New Tulsa Ceremonial Ground.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen takes step into modeling industry



Photo submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Baker walks the runway in September 2015 during the Clary Sage College Fashion Show in Tulsa, Okla.

Baker wants endeavor to become profession

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Imagine, for just a minute. You are in line with numerous other people, waiting, patiently. Not as a customer but rather for a fashion show runway. Hundreds of people are looking at you with numerous cameras flashing.

What do you think would be going through your head? Would you stumble and fall? Would you mess up the walk and pose?

Some think it is an easy thing to do but for those who model, there is a lot more to it than walking.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Account Support Specialist Shannon Baker is in the early stages of this experience.

Baker, 22, thought about being a model when she would get compliments from other people saying that she could do so.

"They told me I was tall and skinny enough to be a model," Baker said. "I have always thought about it."

She began going to John Casablancas Center in Tulsa. JCC helps develop new talent to help them pursue careers in modeling and acting.

"I was taking classes there but then I stopped because I was still in high school," Baker said.

Baker said her father has always wanted her to pursue a career in modeling. He helped her by paying for her classes when she was at JCC. After he passed, Baker felt she should continue with this journey for both of them.

"I want to continue this because I do love being a model and it is fun," Baker said. "My goal is to be a professional model."

Baker remembers her first show in Denver.

She spoke about the nerves she dealt with but also the excitement of being in her first show.

"I was nervous but it was fun," Baker said. "I enjoyed sitting there and getting the makeup put on me and that is way before the show. After that, we are all waiting and waiting and practicing our walk."

Baker spoke about 'the walk,' as she called it.

"There is a certain way you have to walk and pose," Baker said. "The fashion designers from the different shows do want you to walk a certain way."

Baker says she is self-taught when it comes to learning how to walk. She watches a lot of YouTube videos, which has helped her. There are classes but Baker said that they are very expensive.

"I have a cousin who works for a modeling company and I watch her as well," Baker said. "I will see how they do it and work on that."

Baker has been in seven shows and three different photo shoots this year. If she had her choice, she prefers being a runway model over photo shoots.

"I prefer those because I do not like to pose," Baker said. "If I can't do runway, I would love to do fitness modeling."

She is currently considered a free-lance model.

"I am only free-lance because I have not signed with an agency," Baker said. "That is when you are considered a professional is when you are signed."

Baker has approached MCN Tourism and Recreation, Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson about having a modeling show during the annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival.

"That would be great to do," Baker said. "To show something here for our tribe, it would only be Native Americans at this show."

Shannon Baker is of the Eco (Deer) Clan. Her mother is Lorna Baker and her father is the late Paul Lombard. She also has a son, Kasean, who is two-years-old.

> **"I want to continue this because I do love being a model and it is fun."**
>
> **— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Baker**



Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

VKERRICKV — Emotions

AFVCKE — Happy
CVPAKKE — Mad
FEKNOKKE — Sad
HIYE — Hot
ETKOLE — Cold
ENOKKE — Sick
ELVWE — Hungry
EWVNHKE — Thirsty
HOTOSE — Tired
NUCKELE — Sleepy
VLSE — Shy
VNOKECKV — Love

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LOU FIXICO



CLAREMORE, Okla. — Lou Jean Fixico was born April 17, 1951 in Claremore to Woodrow Fixico and Jeanie (Jimboy) Fixico. She passed away Dec. 9, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 64.

Lou worked many years as an Elderly Nutrition director for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for many years. She was a devoted member and secretary of the Creek Chapel Church in Okemah.

Lou enjoyed singing traditional Creek hymns and was very helpful with any funerals or events at the Creek Chapel Church. She also enjoyed fishing, sewing and cooking. Lou loved her family and friends dearly and tried to never miss a grandchild's ballgame. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her: parents; brothers, Allen and George and sister, Rena Grant.

Survivors include her: son, Darrell Tilley of Iowa; daughters, Georgina Tilley of Okemah and Karen Tilley of Weleetka; brothers, Jake Fixico of Shawnee and Gilbert Fixico and wife Anita of Clearview; sister, Helen Fixico of Clearview; half-sister, Betty Shaw and husband, James of Henryetta and grandchildren, Tyson, Boogie and Jayden Micco.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah and officiated by Rev. Grover Wind. Funeral services for Lou Jean Fixico were held Dec. 14, 2015 at the Creek Chapel Church in Okemah. Interment followed at the Creek Chapel Cemetery.

LANCE SANDS



TEMPE, Ariz. — Lance Mayall Sands passed away in his sleep Nov. 19, 2015 at his residence in Tempe. A full-blooded Native American, he was a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Bear Clan. Lance's kindness, generosity, humor and insight inspired countless people. He was born March 4, 1969 at Claremore Indian Hospital, to Danny and Richinda Sands. Lance's maternal grandparents were the late Rev. Wilburn and Mary Hill and his paternal grandparents were the late Alvin Daniel 'Buddy' Sands and Margaret Sands.

Lance spent much of his childhood and adolescence in Tucson, Las Cruces, N.M., and Tempe with his maternal aunt, Jean Chaudhuri (the older sister of Richinda Sands), his uncle Joyotpaul Chaudhuri and their two sons Joydev (Paul) and Jonodev. Lance also spent a significant amount of time in Okmulgee, Okla., with his paternal uncle, the late Clifton Hill (the older brother of Richinda Sands), his wife, the late Betty Hill and their three sons. While a student at Okmulgee High School, his imposing physique and athleticism enabled him to excel in both wrestling and football.

As both a child and an adult, Lance traveled often from Florida to Alaska, encountering and inspiring a wide variety of individuals. Lance also had extended family connections that spanned the globe, including India, the country of origin for his uncle Joyotpaul. Lance's extended family also included friends he had made over the years.

Lance's mother Richinda and his aunt Jean lived a life of community volunteerism and leadership and Lance continued this long-standing tradition. In the late '80s, Lance was a volunteer tutor at the Phoenix Indian School. In more recent times, Lance supported Tonatierra: an international human rights organization.

Many of his maternal relatives have been active in church life. Lance's paternal grandparents were practicing Methodists and his maternal grandparents were practicing Baptists. Lance continued this commitment to Christian life and service by studying earning a degree from Cook Theological School in affiliation with Dubuque University. Lance worshiped with the Native American United Methodist Fellowship in Phoenix, where he served as a youth minister and Elder Bible Study teacher.

Lance was an independent thinker who possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of movies and literature, and he was a talented writer and public speaker. Lance also had a compassionate and reflective nature that he expressed through poems, essays and short stories, some of which were published. He was a contributing author to 'Whisper-N-Thunder' magazine. Lance was also a brilliant and improvisational humorist. Friends and family will remember how he made them laugh and feel better about themselves.

In recent years and despite serious health challenges, Lance counseled and comforted others through his work as a Certified Peer Support and a Vocational Recovery coach in Arizona's behavioral health system and through his work with the United Methodist Church.

Although called from this world too soon, Lance's presence continues to have a profound effect on those who knew him.

Lance is survived by his: mother, Richinda Sands; uncle, Joyotpaul Chaudhuri; aunt, Elizabeth Chastain; cousin-brothers, Joydev (Paul) and Jonodev Chaudhuri; niece, Lila; nephews, Sam, Ross, Kanuux and Hamati; godchildren, Joey, Trevor and Robyn as well as many friends and cousins.

MVTO

I wanted to say "thank you" to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and especially to the staff at the Higher Education Administration for assisting me in the completion of my Master's degree. My plan is to begin my Doctorate in Human Resources and Workforce Development at the University of Arkansas in August 2016. I look forward to retiring to Stidham one day and working with the Creek Nation in some capacity.

— Lori Scott Dreiling

Ross Group soliciting input for Eufaula Clinic project

Ross Group/*Media Release*

EUFAULA, Okla. — Ross Group is soliciting input from contractors and suppliers willing to provide industry specific knowledge to aid in the establishment of accurate cost estimates and development of the project construction documents for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian Health Center in Eufaula.

This project consists of the ground up construction of a new clinic, wellness center, facilities, and storage buildings totaling an estimated 78,900 square feet. This project is planned to achieve LEED Silver certification.

Schematic design documents and specifications are available upon request.

THIS IS NOT AN INVITATION TO BID.

Involvement in this process does not guarantee or imply a contractor or supplier will be awarded any portions of the work required to complete this project.

All contractors and suppliers will be required to participate in future public invitation to bid and provide the best qualified and acceptable proposal as compared to other competitive bids, in order to be awarded any or all portions of the work.

To discuss additional project requirements contact Travis Magers at: 405-264-2214.



FREE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fund a department to be the watchdog sends a clear, concise message that transparent government is a top priority. My hope is that many others will do the same."

The amendment established an independent three-member editorial board, which oversees Mvskoke Media, without influence from the tribal government.

The executive branch, legislative branch and Mvskoke Media are each responsible for nominating one member to the newly established three-person editorial board.

Each member will serve a three-year term.

Travis Snell and Rebecca Landsberry were confirmed as board members by tribal resolution Oct. 31, 2015 during the MCN National Council quarterly session. As of press time, a third member has not yet been nominated.

Snell is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and serves as the associate editor of the 'Cherokee Phoenix,' the oldest Native American newspaper. The 'Phoenix' is one of a handful of tribal media outlets with free press protections currently in place.

He is a longtime member of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA).

NAJA is a nonprofit organization educating and connecting its membership through programs that promote diversity and defend challenges to free press, speech and expression. NAJA currently has more than 500 members across the U.S., and Canada covering Native communities through local, tribal and mainstream media.

For more information visit: www.naja.com.

Landsberry is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and former editor of the 'MNN.'

She is the current NAJA interim executive director and treasurer for the Native Health News Alliance.

Landsberry says freedom of the press empowers tribes.

"It is essential for these journalists covering stories in Native America to have autonomy and the means to hold those in power accountable to the citizens," she said. "This historic act will continue to strengthen tribal sovereignty and is a tremendous accomplishment for NAJA members there in Mvskoke Media, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Indian Country."

Cosper said the next step will be to add a freedom of information act (FOIA).

"We encourage citizens and officials alike to strengthen our role in the checks and balances system by supporting the passage of a FOIA, which will provide attributive documentation for the content of our coverage," Cosper said.

Cosper said the department aims to ask for citizen input with adding free press language directly into the MCN Constitution, in addition to the new code of law.

"Through this, citizens would vote to add us as a functioning body of the foundational document for MCN government with their approval being the only means to reverse it," Cosper said.

MCN is the fourth largest Native American tribe in the U.S., and includes more than 79,000 citizens across the globe.

It is the third tribe in the state of Oklahoma to enact free press protections, following the Osage Nation's passage of the Independent Press Act in 2008 and the Cherokee Nation's Independent Press Amendment in 2009.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
J.Y., Jr.; DOB: 02/11/1999)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

Case No. JV-2015-03

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2015 DEC 11 AM 9 22
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Laverne Wolf, Natural Mother
801 South Gulf Street
Holdenville, OK 74848

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 5th day of February, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Jan. 15 — Jan. 7

Feb. 1 — Jan. 22

Feb. 15 — Feb. 5

March 1 — Feb. 22

March 15 — March 7

April 1 — March 24

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 22

May 15 — May 6

NATIVE PAW PRINTS DECOR STORE OPEN

SAPULPA, Okla. — Native Paw Prints upstairs at The Vintage Rose, 105 E. Dewey in downtown Sapulpa is now open.

They sell upholstery, home accessories, Native art as well refurbished, vintage and painted furniture, etc.

The hours are:

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

To reach the store line call: 918-224-0254.

For more information call Tracy Gibson at: 918-521-7829 or email: trandygibson@yahoo.com.

JOM offers AP testing financial assistance

MCN JOM/*Media Release*

OKMUGLEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training is offering financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) students to take advance placement exams.

The program will pay for up to five exams per year.

Applicants must reapply annually.

All checks must be made out to the applicant's site or reimbursed to the place in which they will take the exam.

Students who do not attend the required testing date will be responsible for the unused testing fee.

Those who fail to attend will be ineligible to receive further incentives until the Johnson O'Malley office receives payment.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 29.

Applications can be mailed to: MCN Department of Education and Training: Attn Johnson O'Malley, PO Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

For more information including eligibility requirements, call JOM at: 918-732-7840 or email: abattenfield@mcn-nsn.gov.

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Jan. 15 , 2016 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother

Vol. 46, Issue 2

Council approves gaming increase towards 2016 budget— Pages 4 - 5

2016 MCN Inauguration photos — Pages 10 - 12



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

MCN Tax Commission sees growth in tax revenue

McPeak reports $1.2 million increase from FY 2014

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission released tax revenue numbers showing growth for fiscal year 2015, for a total of $8.981 million back to the Nation.



This amount includes revenue from tobacco, sales, alcohol and vehicle licensing taxes.

The Tax Commission numbers indicate that there was a $2,393,492 increase through the tax commission to the bottom line revenue for the MCN economy in FY 2015.

McPeak said that FY 2014 was a record year and FY 2015 was even better.

Tax monies that come through the tax commission go to the general fund.

"There's none of it earmarked for anything," MCN Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak said.

These funds can be used at the Nation's discretion, such as programs for citizens.

MCN received a total of $3.254 million in tobacco tax revenue for FY 2015. This is a $930,431 increase from FY 2014.

According to the Tax Commission, under the current tobacco compact, the Nation was able to give a total $1.191 million in tobacco tax revenue monies back to the communities, citizens and smoke shops.

McPeak credits the tobacco compact signed with the State of Oklahoma in August 2014 for the increase in tobacco tax revenue.

"On the tobacco side, the compact obviously was. It may

Revenue ~ 2

Council votes to reprimand representative

Ade fined $1000 for disorderly conduct

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held an emergency session regarding former Rep. Shirlene Ade Dec. 28, 2015 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Reps. Robert Hufft, David Hill and Darrell Proctor were excused. Rep. David Nichols and Ade were absent.

During the meeting, the Council discussed a complaint that had been filed by Rep. Dode Barnett against Ade for threatening remarks.

Barnett filed a formal complaint Dec. 17, 2015.

The Council Internal Affairs Committee recommended a letter of reprimand and a $500 fine imposed on Ade to be considered by the Council for disorderly conduct.

Ade submitted a letter of resignation to then Speaker Thomas Yahola Dec. 27, 2015.

During the emergency session, the Council voted 9-0 to not accept Ade's resignation, have the speaker send her a letter of reprimand and impose a $1,000 fine.

As the complainant, Barnett did not vote.

Ade's term ended Jan. 2. She was first elected to the Council in 2004.

Yahola said that to his knowledge, this was the first time the Council has moved to discipline one of their own.

"This is the first time that I can recall that this has ever happened before," Yahola said.

Ade declined to comment.

MCN to receive FlyingTee rent payments

Legislation aimed at return on investments

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During the Nov. 21, 2015 regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, the Council voted 12-2 to pass TR 15-210, directing the lease payments from the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue at the RiverWalk Complex back to MCN.

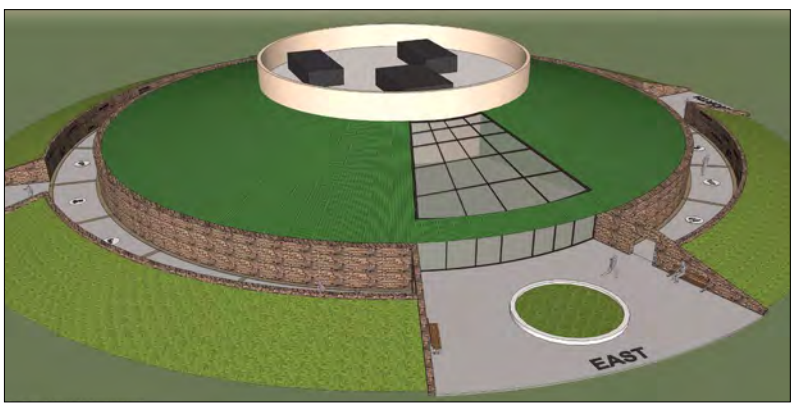
Originally, the lease payments were to be made to Onefire Holding Company LLC, the owner and manager of RiverWalk.

Rep. James Jennings, who sponsored the bill, said its purpose is to return the revenue to the MCN Controller's Office.

Jennings explained that the Nation spent $11 million to

Rent ~ 5

Ceremony held for Mound renovations



Architectural rendering

MCN Complex structure to receive new design

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court and MCN National Council held a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 16, 2015 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee for renovations to the Mound Building.

Former Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said he believes that the building was constructed in the late 1970s and over the last year, black mold was discovered in the structure.

"We have had some health issues here, you know with the

Mound ~ 3



Amanda Rutland/MNN

James Floyd was sworn in as Muscogee (Creek) Nation principal chief by MCN Supreme Court Chief Justice Andrew Adams III (left) accompanied by Vice Chief Justice and Mekko George Thomson (right) during an inauguration ceremony Jan. 2 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Inauguration ceremony held for MCN officials

Newly elected chief shares his plans, vision

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — James Floyd was sworn in as Muscogee (Creek) Nation principal chief, along with Second Chief Louis Hicks and the 19th session of the MCN National Council Jan. 2 during an inauguration ceremony at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Floyd who was voted in through the Nov. 2, 2015 MCN general election, began his career with MCN in 1978 and moved on to work in health care, retiring last year as director of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Heath Care System in Muskogee.

"I started work probably on the lowest level of the tribe. I was here when we approved the Constitution, when we opened our hospitals and clinics and when we first started gaming.

"I knew then that we had the ability to be great and I know we can elevate our Nation, not only in just how the systems work but in our dignity, respect, compassion and care for each other," Floyd said during the ceremony.

Hicks who was re-elected during the Sept. 19, 2015 primary after running unopposed, served in the U.S. military from 1969-1972 and worked for MCN as director of the Human Development Department from 2007-2011, having also supervised seven other MCN programs.

"Speaking on behalf of Chief Floyd and myself, the endeavors that we've taken in the past, whatever they may have been, if there were any successes in those endeavors, we can't say that we've done them ourselves.

"The success has been made through people that we've surrounded ourselves with, good people, intelligent people and people that really have wanted to make it work," Hicks said during the ceremony.

His first term began Jan. 17, 2015, filling the position vacated by former MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett.

The Council has 16 seats and newly elected Reps. Del Beaver, Randall Hicks and Rufus Scott joined the incumbent and sitting representatives in taking the oath of office.

During the ceremony, the Council elected Rep. Lucian Tiger as speaker, David Hill as second speaker and Darrell Proctor as sergeant-at-arms.

During a press conference after the ceremony, Floyd said that he had already begun meeting with the Council and was pleased with the leadership they selected.

"I think that they will find us very open in engaging with them and working alongside them," he said. "We have some very bright and motivated Council members and we will make sure that we stay astride with their ideas as well."

Floyd said that his plans for his first month in office are to set a tone of service between the employees and tribal citizen base.

"We're in the service industry. We want to make sure we have everyone understand that," he said. "Their expectations for their jobs and we've also unveiled the plans as we go forward, the bigger picture and how they'll fit into that."

He said his plans are to have the names of MCN programs and departments reflect this with housing as an example.

"We've already began making plans of changing the name from Department of Housing to Housing Services and every department of our tribe will be named services," he said.

Floyd said all current tribal construction projects would continue.

"We've already begun having regular projects meetings so that we can stay on top of those that we have throughout the Nation," he said. "As you may be aware, presently building

Officials ~ 5

Revenue

Continued from page 1

not be the best compact ever offered to the Creek (Nation), but it's the best compact that any tribe in Oklahoma has," he said.

Under the current tobacco compact, the state tax rate is $3.09 per carton.

This is a $2.06 advantage per carton that will be in effect until Dec. 31.

Until that date, MCN will receive 70 percent of all taxes collected on tobacco products sold at smoke shops subject to the MCN Tax Commission.

After that date, the tribe will receive 55 percent of the taxes collected until April 30, 2018. From that date until Dec. 31, 2024, the Nation will receive 50 percent.

The compact expires Dec. 31, 2024.

From the beginning of the compact to April 30, 2018, MCN is estimated to benefit financially to the tune of $7.585 million.

The Tax Commission reported $1.157 million in sales tax revenue for FY 2015. This was an $119,194 increase from FY 2014.

They also reported $2.293 million in alcohol tax revenue for FY 2015.

Vehicle licensing tax revenue for FY 2015 came in at $2.275 million, for a 51.5 percent growth since FY 2010.

A total of 23,933 vehicle tags were sold.

Currently, MCN tags are only available to Muscogee (Creek) citizens residing within the MCN jurisdiction.

McPeak said the Nation would have much to consider if they were to open up licenses to citizens residing outside of the jurisdiction.

"It's a nice idea. The Cherokee's have a really good compact," McPeak said. "If you're willing to make less money for the tribe and you're willing to allow your citizens to pay more money for their tags, you can sure do it. But it costs your tribe money, and it's going to cost your citizens money to do it."

He said that compacts with tribes such as the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations costs their citizens and tribal governments more money than the current agreement between Oklahoma and MCN.

"They charge the full rate, full state rate for the tag and then they get a rebate," McPeak said. "However, with all the tribes except the Cherokees, with all the tribes the rebate nowhere comes close to making the tag as inexpensive as it is with what we charge. So, it costs the tribe money and it costs the citizens money."

McPeak said that in turn, this would equate to less vehicle registration tax revenue for MCN and potentially less money for services.

He said that the primary complaint he receives regarding the Tax Commission stem from requests they cannot legally complete, such as registering a vehicle without a title.

"I think the ladies did a good job of service. We emphasize all the time, if it's legal, find a way to do it," he said.

McPeak was recommissioned as the Tax Commissioner Jan. 4 by MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

2015 Tax Commission Revenue

Tobacco Tax	**$3,254,208**
Sales Tax	**$1,157,995**
Alcohol Tax	**$2,293,510**
Vehicle Tax	**$2,275,590**
TOTAL	**$8,981,303**

2014 Tax Commission Revenue

Tobacco Tax	**$2,323,777**
Sales Tax	**$1,157,995**
Alcohol Tax	**$2,174,316**
Vehicle Tax	**$2,123,285**
TOTAL	**$7,779,373**

$1,201,930 total growth in FY 2015 for a 22 percent increase

MCN Council House restoration hits budget obstacle



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Funding concerns cited in project delay

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Its walls are cracked and bulging outward. The bell tower is unstable to the point that the bell cannot be rung without the danger of it crashing down through the floors. The buildings outside support pillars are separating themselves from the walls.

This is the assessment of Tulsa firm, Selser Schafer Architects regarding the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House, built in 1878 in downtown Okmulgee.

John Griffin with Selser Schafer said they are working in conjunction with Walter Sedovic Architects, a firm that specializes in historic properties, to determine ways to preserve and restore the historic building.

"We understand that there are things that can just no longer be left without addressing them. The whole team is aware of that," he said. "We're certainly confident that all of them can be safely and easily addressed but now is the time."

The latest request for $3.5 million to fund the project through NCA 15-263, failed 0-2 during the MCN National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting Dec. 8, 2015, with Reps. Mark Randolph and Mitch Jack voting against it.

"The first time they came up and asked for a special appropriation we also had to come up with $4.5 million for contract health and then, it was explained that we had to prioritize," Randolph said. "The people had to come before any else and it's kind of like that again, it's timing. For myself, right now, we're going through this transitional period from the old administration to a new administration and getting everything put in place."

A previous attempt to fund the restorations failed during a July 14, 2015 LNC meeting. View 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage on page one of the Aug. 15, 2015 edition at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2015/20150815.pdf.

He said the most recent delay was in the spirit of knowing what page the tribe was on financially.

"This is just for myself, I'd like to know exactly how much money we have and exactly how much we owe. I want to make sure all our bills are paid," Randolph said. "When we start out this new administration, this new year, I want to see the Council House restored. It's something that I support, it's just been timing so far and priorities."

MCN Cultural Center and Archives Interim Director Justin Giles said they will probably have to decide one way or the other if the building is safe for human use.

"Through our architects, who we have contracted with for over a year-and-a-half, with our last assessment as of last week (early December) with the outside pillar, we're going to have to put up caution tape to make that a 'no man' zone," Giles said. "You can't really walk in front of that pillar because we are anticipating, at any point, that that's going to fall over."

Giles added that recent earthquakes in Oklahoma's central and eastern regions present new hazards to the Council House's structural integrity.

Most winter activities, he said, are outside on the lawn, so they do not have any plans to change those. But, they must examine total suspension of interior activities such as the fiddle dances.

He said the financial request is to begin providing some more permanent repairs to the historical building.

"Any restorative projects that have been done to the building itself have been 'Band-Aids' over a wound that is getting bigger," Giles said. "Nothing that we're now planning to do here and have been requesting to get the final funding for is the complete restorative project, which will make the Council House stand for another 150 to 200 years."

Randolph said he had been made aware of the condition but could not support funding at this point.

"Mr. Giles relayed to us that his fear was that it was going to fall down," he said. "That they might have to put tape around it and cones, but so far we've continued use of the building. I know it's in very bad shape. I'm not a contractor or anything, but we don't have all the money right now."

Rep. James Jennings is not a member of the LNC committee but attended the Dec. 8, 2015 meeting and had some feelings about what priorities for funding requests should be.

"I'm in support of the Council House and I supported it when it was purchased from the City of Okmulgee but I just don't feel like this is the time to do a repair to the Council House," Jennings said. "I feel like we need to have our budget for our Nation settled before we invest any more money into that."

With a new principal chief just taking office, Jennings felt that the new leadership needs some time to tackle the problem.

"I don't feel like the Council, and this is my personal opinion, needs to pass legislation this month when a new administration is going in and they're going to inherit these other projects and possibly problems," he said.

Rep. Dode Barnett, who sponsored the funding legislation, said she brought it to the LNC committee to support bringing the building back to its original state as much as possible and prevent further deterioration.

"There's a lot to renovating it in a responsible way as to not disturb the integrity of the actual structure, if that makes sense," Barnett said. "There's just a lot more to preserving restorations than a normal renovation type project."

Barnett who is not on LNC, said the historical significance of the Council House calls for a substantial effort to preserve it.

"Having that living entity for our children and our children's children to go and look at and see where the tribe has always done its business historically and the historic discussions and the decisions that were made in that building," she said. "To me, it's just a very integral part of who we are. I do believe that everyone feels the urgency and feel the importance of addressing the situation."

She recognized that the situation pitted historical priority against other current financial needs.

"I feel that the reason that it was the way it was because of budget concerns because, really, even to this point, we haven't completed the budget process and we haven't completed the FY 16 budget," Barnett said.

CCA placed yellow warning tape and flexible orange plastic barriers around the structure Dec. 15, 2015 and were contemplating a cancellation of all activities at the site.

MCN Risk Management Department Manager Phil Booker said as a tribal property, the Council House was covered under its umbrella liability policy.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Yahola reflects on term as speaker

The 18th Council session in review

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council reflected on the 18th session during a pre-session meeting Dec. 19, 2015 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Rep. Mitch Jack was excused. Outgoing Reps. Shirlene Ade and David Nichols were absent.

"I appreciate my colleagues for allowing me to serve as your speaker this past term," former Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said. "I've been on several Councils, and this has definitely been the best Council that I've ever associated with."

Yahola served as the speaker for the 18th session, and is the Tukvpvtce District Seat B representative. This was his third term as speaker.

In a previous interview with 'Mvskoke Radio,' Yahola said that this four-year term ending in 2018 would be his last as a Council representative. He has served as a representative since the early 90s.

"When I first came in this session here, I went around the table and asked each of the representatives what they wanted to see from this session," Yahola said.

Through their discussions, the Council initiated work sessions where members would informally convene to discuss questions about legislation and various issues.

Yahola said he received positive feedback on these sessions from Council representatives.

He believes the biggest accomplishment the Council made this session for the Nation and its citizens was the judgment award from the U.S. government through the MCN v. Jewell case.

MCN filed suit against the U.S. for trust fund mismanagement and trust accounting claims, and sought relief and damages.

TR 15-207 was passed unanimously during the Nov. 21, 2015 session, agreeing to a $8.386 million settlement.

"This has been going on for some time… The government would in turn reduce the amount that would be awarded to us, but the National Council stood firm together and made a decision," Yahola said.

Former Second Speaker Robert Hufft agreed with Yahola's sentiments about serving as a representative for the 18th session.

"We may have conflicts and difference of opinion, but that's OK," Hufft said. "That's what we should have sometimes because if we're all doing things the same way, then we only need one of us."

Hufft also discussed the improvement of communication within the Council.

Rep. Pete Beaver agreed that technical aspects were a significant accomplishment.

"We can be in contact with each other instantly, where as used to we had to wait on faxes and be told by mail," Beaver said. "So, I just like the way we have progressed."

Rep. David Hill believed that the theme for this session was accountability.

"I think this session right here was good about trying to hold everyone responsible and accountable for their positions," Hill said.

Rep. Mark Randolph discussed accountability and transparency.

"I think we progressed. I think we have a long ways to go still," Randolph said. "We always have room for improvement."

Rep. Joyce Deere called the last session a 'challenge' and that she still saw needs within the Nation including facility and building maintenance.

She also discussed returning the MCN seal to its original design.

"The colors have been arbitrarily changed by this administration (now the previous) and I would like to see them go back to the way they're supposed to be," Deere said.

Rep. Lucian Tiger called his first two years serving as a representative 'an experience.'

"But what I have noticed and realized is that what I see from this Council is that we've stuck together really well… We stood together and did what we thought was best for the Nation as a whole, as a committee and as well as a Council," Tiger said.

Tiger was elected speaker during the 2016 MCN Inauguration Ceremony Jan. 2 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Hill was elected second speaker and Rep. Darrell Proctor was elected sergeant-at-arms. The 19th Session of the MCN National Council will hold their first quarterly session Jan. 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Coverage of the new officers, representatives and committee members is forthcoming.

MOUND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mold and so with the recommendation of Tribal Construction, we looked it over and decided we do need to make some improvements," Yahola said.

The improvement project is divided into two parts.

Phase I will renovate the exterior of the building and phase II will remodel the interior, including the addition of skylights.

MCN Tribal Construction Services Construction Engineer and Manager James Allred explained that phase I will involve excavation of dirt from the Mound, and the addition of a retaining wall and an underground drainage system to prevent water damage in the future.



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials and employees break ground Dec. 16, 2015 for renovations to the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Allred believes that stress from the dirt and rain known as hydrostatic pressure have contributed to the current condition of the building.

"When you pour a basement or any type of structure like this, there's a hydrostatic pressure relief that is up against the building." Allred said. "We are pretty sure that has been compromised. We are going to have to dig down deep enough to find out exactly where and when."

The new design will create a walkway around the building and add an entrance on the south and north sides.

"We are going to add two outlets on the north side and the south side to break up and add the dimension of four, which is a traditional number that is always incorporated into our traditional design," Allred said.

Yahola said it was important to retain the cultural integrity of the building.

"Working with Mekko Yargee, he has helped us retain our identity here with the designs of the clans and tribal towns in the past," Yahola said. "We don't want to lose their names because they are the reason we are here."

The National Council passed NCA 15-190 on Aug. 29, 2015 appropriating $800,000 for phase I.

"We appropriated half of the monies in this fiscal year and they'll finish that and then we will go into phase II," Yahola said, "and probably get monies from next year's budget, so it won't be a strain on one budget."

Allred said phase I could be finished in four-five months, but that depends on weather conditions.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions.
$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day ($200 total),
or $10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Council approves gaming percentage increase towards 2016 budget

Restricted land buy-back legislation postponed indefinitely

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Dec. 19, 2015 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• **NCR 15-007 Approving the legal services agreement between the MCN National Council and Fletcher Law. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely 12-0.**

The Council requires their own legal counsel separate from that offered by various other legal entities qualified to practice at MCN. This legislation aimed to reconfirm Zeke Fletcher as their attorney.

• **TR 15-214 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a universal service fund disclosure agreement for funding Telemedicine and an Oklahoma Telemedicine affidavit on behalf of the MCN Department of Health and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

This agreement with a State of Oklahoma entity would provide MCNDH with a free telecommunication line or wireless connection to provide the telemedicine, clinical and health consultation services the MCNDH equipment and service applications require.

The American Telemedicine Association website defines telemedicine as, 'the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient's clinical health status.

'…Patient consultations via video conferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education, consumer-focused wireless applications and nursing call centers, among other applications are all considered part of telemedicine and telehealth.'

• **TR 15-215 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement renewal on behalf of MCNDH with STERIS Corporation. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

MCNDH wishes to renew the agreement to cover certain medical equipment they own.

According to their website, 'STERIS is a global leader in infection prevention, contamination control, surgical and critical care technologies and more.'

• **TR 15-216 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a State of Oklahoma Department of Transportation driveway agreement for the improvement of the intersection of State Highway Loop 56 and Mission Street in Okmulgee County. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The proposed improvement is aimed at making the intersection safer and OKDOT requires the agreement before work can begin.

The agreement has MCN assuming responsibility for any damages, expenses, claims or liability arising out of potential issues caused by the construction.

• **TR 15-217 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for federal funding to complete an environmental assessment, hydraulic study and design a replacement bridge for bridge number 00388 in Creek County, bridge number 09681 in Muskogee County and bridge number 06526 in Okfuskee County. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The MCN Transportation Department has identified these bridges as structurally deficient and wishes to request $150,000 in federal funds per bridge to begin addressing this.

• **TR 15-218 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Jack C. Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center Veterans Transportation Service, Indian Nations Council of Governments, Grand Gateway DBA Pelivan Transit, Cimarron Public Transit System, KI BOIS, Muskogee County Transit and Morton Comprehensive Health Care in order to develop the veterans transportation initiative. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

These entities wish to collaborate to provide adequate transportation options for over 44,000 veterans in eastern Oklahoma to the Jack C. Montgomery VAMC and other veteran destinations.

• **TR 15-219 Authorizing the use of a tribal building for the MCN Okemah Cabinet Shop. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The MCN Tribal Construction Department has developed an apprenticeship program to build a workforce of skilled tribal citizens. The department would like to develop an existing property into a cabinet shop to utilize and train this workforce to build cabinets for MCN construction projects.

No additional funds are needed for this conversion.

• **TR 15-220 Authorizing construction of a new tribal construction services building. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The structure will be located between the Lighthorse and Tribal Driveways buildings and will be financed through the department's operating funds and a prior appropriation.

• **TR 15-221 Authorizing the inclusion of the relocation of the pedestrian trail on the River Spirit Casino property as part of the Phase II expansion of RSC. Reps. Robert Hufft and David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The trail intersects with an entrance to RSC and the Margaritaville themed expansion is expected to increase traffic flow through this area.

According to the legislation, it is in the best interest of MCN to add the $3 million dollar cost for this to the RSC project expenses for public safety, to lower liabilities as well as costs and to honor a prior commitment to the City of Tulsa.

• **TR 15-222 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements between MCN and Mueller Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The Construction Department believes it will need to purchase additional steel from the company and needs the agreement to do so.

• **TR 15-223 Authorizing renovation to the Holdenville Creek Indian Community building. Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The roof has water leaks and is not covered under the Nation's insurance.

• **TR 15-224 Amending TR 12-072 (Authorizing MCN to borrow $14,785,000 from the permanent fund to be used toward the purchase of RiverWalk Crossing Development and for incidentals and improvements) as amended by TR 15-170. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The payment needs to be deferred to the gaming fund account to help cover the fiscal year 2016 budget shortfall.

• **TR 15-225 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an online service agreement with Microsoft Corporation. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

This agreement allows MCN to utilize Microsoft products and services.

• **TR 15-226 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a services agreement between MCN and emergency medical services for the purpose of providing ambulance services for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**



Sterling Cosper/MNN
Former acting Muscogee (Creek) Nation Controller Patricia Kilian addresses the MCN National Council Dec. 22, 2015 regarding a bill to increase the percentage of gaming funds going back to the tribe for the fiscal year 2016 budget during the Council regular session at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

This agreement will allow the center to incorporate EMS for its patients.

• **TR 15-227 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and the Oklahoma City area office of the Indian Health Service. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The agreement will allow the assignment of Clinical Nurse Specialist Marjorie D. Santos to the Eufaula Indian Health Center.

• **TR 15-228 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement for legal services with Aston, Mathis, Jacobson, Campbell and Tiger PLLC. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

GOAB wishes to use this firm for legal counsel.

• **TR 15-229 Authorizing GOAB to execute software agreements with Infinium. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The agreement allows GOAB to use Infinium products and services. According to Bloomberg.com Infinium, 'offers web and server-based financial, human resources, supply chain management: process manufacturing, business analytics and customer service relationship management solutions; services; support and deployment options to its customers.'

• **TR 15-230 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement between MCN and Pitney Bowes for MCNDH facilities. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The company provides mailing equipment and support services.

• **TR 15-231 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a skilled nursing facility participation agreement for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

MCNDH is looking to participate in a health care program for uniformed service members through TRICARE, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Defense. The agreement is needed to form a government-to-government relationship to do so.

According to the TRICARE website it is, 'the health care program for almost 9.5 million beneficiaries worldwide, including active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors, certain former spouses and others registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.'

• **TR 15-232 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for the water and water user's agreement and right of way easement with Okfuskee County Rural Water District No. 3 for the water service at a tribal property located in Okfuskee County. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The Tribal Construction Department apprenticeship program needs water service for the proposed cabinet shop, detailed by TR 15-219.

• **TR 15-233 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an oil and gas lease on tribal property located in Wagoner County. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

WCT Resources LLC has submitted a lease proposal with a lease bonus of $10.75 on property belonging to MCN at a royalty rate of three-sixteenths.

Mineralwise.com defines a lease bonus as, 'usually the cash consideration that is paid by the lessee for the execution of an oil and gas lease by a landowner that is typically based on a per acre payment.'

Businessdictionary.com defines a mineral lease as, 'a lease agreement between an individual and a property owner that grants the individual rights to extract minerals.'

Itlaw.wikia.com defines a royalty rate as, 'a rate of payment to be made to someone in exchange for certain rights granted by that person. It can be a fixed amount per transaction or per time period or a percentage of sales, revenues or another amount related to the exploitation of the rights granted.'

• **TR 15-235 Authorizing Rosen Publishing the use of the Great Seal of MCN. Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

The company requests to use the seal for an educational book for schools and public libraries.

• **TR 15-236 Authorizing GOAB to execute a ConnectYourCare business associate agreement, NDA, administrative services agreement and affiliated ancillary documents related to the agreement. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

According to the ConnectYourCare website, the company 'provides health savings accounts, health reimbursement arrangements, flexible spending accounts and retirement health benefit account administration.'

The legislation aims to allow GOAB to utilize the FSA services.

Healthcare.gov defines FSA as, 'a special account you put money into that you use to pay for certain out of pocket health care costs. You don't have to pay taxes on this money, which means you'll save an amount equal to the taxes you would have paid on the money you set aside.'

• **TR 15-238 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a practicum site affiliation agreement with the University of Oklahoma—Tulsa Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work on behalf of the MCN Department of Community and Human Services. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

MCN CHS wishes to provide Muscogee (Creek) students in the field of social work with clinical experience training offered by the OU.

• **TR 15-239 Authorizing GOAB to execute an end user license agreement with Solarwinds Worldwide LLC. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

GOAB wishes to use Solarwinds software products and services.

According to the company website their mission is, 'to provide purpose-built products that are designed to make IT professionals' jobs easier.'

• **TR 15-240 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of real property and appurtenances located in the City of Eufaula. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0.**

MCN has used all its land on the Eufaula School campus for the Eufaula Dorm as well as the Head Start and daycare programs and wishes to acquire land adjacent to the existing property for expansion.

• **NCA 15-252 Authorizing a $1,250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 12-0.**

Citizen Augustine McNac is a member of Creek Chapel Methodist Church in Okemah and is seeking assistance to repair the ceilings and floors of a camphouse church there that was built by her family in 1965.

Coachman stated during the session that his motion to postpone the bill is because the Council is looking at ways to address these types of needs through means other than appropriations.

• **NCA 15-255 Authorizing the expenditure of $120,000 for the design of the MCN Transportation Department maintenance facility shop. Randolph**

Council - 5



Photo submission

The FlyingTee golf entertainment venue being constructed at the RiverWalk Complex in Jenks, Okla., is scheduled to open in early 2016.

Rent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

purchase the RiverWalk property, $21.9 million distributed into three annual payments to Onefire for its initial start up and $11.6 million to construct FlyingTee.

"The tribe's not receiving a dime," Jennings said.

Jennings said he believed that the FlyingTee lease payments should be made to MCN directly so that the Nation can see a return on its investment.

He said that over the course of the 25-year lease for FlyingTee, the Nation will see approximately $21.9 million in total revenue from the lease payments.

"We're not all about spending money," he said. "We want some returned."

Jennings said that this is not a personal vendetta against Onefire.

Since he began his first Council term in 2014, Jennings voted for the construction of FlyingTee, as well as the transfer the structurally insulated panels (SIPs) plant in Wetumka to the holding company for management.

Onefire CEO Mike Payne said in a written statement that Onefire will need to use other revenue in order to offset the expenses of managing the property.

"The entire RiverWalk property, including the FlyingTee, is a large portion of Onefire's portfolio and our daily responsibilities," Payne said. "Any changes regarding existing and future tenants at the RiverWalk clearly have an effect on Onefire, but the effect can be manageable."

Payne said that financially, the property is doing well and this law will not change their plan for RiverWalk.

He said there will be announcements regarding new tenants at RiverWalk in the next few weeks and months.

Jennings said that he does not feel the law is an overreach of the government into economic development. He said that in the contract for FlyingTee, the lease payments are to be made to Onefire or its designee.

"So, all we're doing is making the Nation as the designee," Jennings said.

Payne said that this may be seen as "blurring the line" between politics and business, but is not politics interfering with business.

"More important is the fact that the Nation has passed several key pieces (of) legislation over the past few years that have laid the groundwork for a successful portfolio… This, along with the successful rebuilding of the RiverWalk, demonstrates that the structure put into place by this Council in passing these pieces of legislation is working and the goals of the legislation are being attained," Payne said.

Jennings said that the agreement between Onefire and MCN outlines that a portion of their profits will begin returning to the tribe within three years after the formation of Onefire.

He said the percentage of this return will be negotiated sometime this year through Council legislation.

Officials

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two health care facilities as well, in addition to remodeling one so we need to stay on top of those things."

He conveyed his attitude towards these endeavors together in his inauguration speech.

"I believe that it is good to own property but better to own and preserve our traditional lands, churches, sacred and historical sites and to provide adequate housing to our citizens…Good to build health care facilities but better to provide timely, quality care to our citizens and an organized health care system," Floyd said.

He also stressed communication with and services for citizens outside the MCN jurisdiction, transparency and feasibility in economic development as well as training and careers for citizens, apart from job creation and the operation of a tribal college.

After the ceremony, Mvskoke hymn singing was led by Luther 'Bunny' Factor and the event concluded with a stompdance coordinated by Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground.

According to the MCN Constitution, the new term for executive office begins the first Monday in January, which for this term was Jan. 4. It also states that executive officers hold four-year terms with a two-term limit. Legislative officers also hold four-year terms.

A list of commissioned executive officers was provided the morning of Jan. 4.

Controller - Kathryn Guthrie

Veteran's Affairs - Ken Davis

Tax Commissioner - Jerry McPeak

Attorney General - Kevin Dellinger

Secretary of the Nation - James Byrd

Secretary of Interior Affairs - Christopher Azbell

Secretary of Community and Human Services - Neenah Tiger

Secretary of Education, Employment and Training - Courtney Josie

Secretary of Housing - LaDonna Northcross

Lighthorse Police Chief - Robert Hawkins Jr.

Tribal Administrator - Judy Haumpy

Secretary of Health - Lawrence Vark

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.

The department has Federal Transportation Authority and Federal Highway Administration funds to cover the cost of design plans for the shop, which it needs to maintain its vehicles and seeks Council approval to expend them.

• **NCA 15-258 Authorizing a $57,000 appropriation to the MCN Social Security Assistance Program for the purpose of providing legal/paralegal services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens appealing their social security disability denials. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 12-0.**

The program helps citizens by acting as a liaison between them and the U.S. Social Security Administration.

SSAP wishes to provide an attorney/paralegal to represent their clients at SS disability hearings, appeals council reviews and in federal court due to the overwhelming demand and technicalities involved in this process.

• **NCA 15-259 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Paden Public Schools. Reps. Hill and Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

The school seeks financial assistance to help pay for expenses related to hosting the Paden Invitational Basketball Tournament. Paden has 260 enrolled students, 63 of which are Native American and of those, 26 are Muscogee (Creek).

• **NCA 15-260 Authorizing a $4,419 special appropriation for the unpaid funeral expenses of a Muscogee (Creek) descendant. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 12-0.**

Descendant James Samuel Buckner passed away Nov. 13, 2015. His parents died prior to enrollment and his maternal and paternal grandparents were full-blood citizens.

His sister Regina Buckner McVay requests the funds to cover his funeral expenses as he had been incarcerated in the Oklahoma penal system since before tribal enrollment was made available to citizens. Since he was not enrolled, his family is not eligible for Bureau of Indian Affairs or MCN Social Services burial assistance

Yahola said during the session that he was not yet comfortable with the legislation and that it required further research.

• **NCA 15-261 Authorizing an $849.50 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

Citizen Jeremiah Lunsford is a seventh grade student at Okmulgee Middle School and seeks financial assistance to travel to Washington, D.C., with his school through the WorldStrides Program visiting the Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian's museums, White House, Capitol Building and other historic sites.

• **NCA 15-264 Authorizing a $90,849 special appropriation to the Holdenville Creek Indian Community. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

This appropriation serves to finance the repairs approved by TR 15-223.

• **NCA 15-265 Amending MCNCA, Title 48, Subsections 1-104 U., 1-106 D., 5-101, 6-101, 6-105 and 8-105 titled, 'Worker's Compensation.' Hufft and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested an interpretation of the legislation from Hufft who referred the request to the MCN Office of the Attorney General citing proper clarification.

The 'MNN' reached out to the office midday, Dec. 22, 2015 as well as Jan. 4 and did not receive a reply as of press time.

The full version of the bill can be acquired from the Council office using the contact information at the bottom.

• **NCA 15-266 Amending MCN Code Annotated, Title 37, Subsection 2-203 to alter the distribution of funds for the purpose of funding the FY 2016 comprehensive annual budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-1 with Randolph voting against it.**

The bill is aimed at placing an additional 20 percent of net revenue from tribal gaming operations towards funding the FY 2016 budget.

• **NCA 15-267 Authorizing a donation to Ryal Public School. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed 10-2 with Barnett and Coachman voting against it.**

The Council passed the legislation 10-0 during a Dec. 29, 2015 emergency session. Hill and Hufft were excused and Reps. Shirlene Ade as well as David Nichols were absent.

The school was informed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education that they will not be receiving their Impact Aid Funds of $276,000 this year due to them not meeting their maintenance of effort in school year 2013-2014.

Ideamoneywatch.com defines MOE as generally referring, 'to a requirement placed upon many federally funded grant programs that the state education agency and local education agencies or school districts, demonstrate that the level of state and local funding remains consistent from year to year.'

The school student population is close to 90 percent Muscogee (Creek) and requested the donation to help stay open for the rest of this school year. The language in the law requiring an MOE has been taken out so this funding issue will only affect Ryal this school year.

• **NCA 15-268 Authorizing the Secretary of Interior Affairs to implement a land buy-back plan to purchase and consolidate fractioned interests of surface and subsurface restricted lands for the benefit of MCN and Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Jones sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 12-0.**

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior established the program for tribes and TR 14-017 authorized MCN participation in the program. The purpose of participating is to implement the land consolidation requirements of the Cobell Settlement Agreement.

According to the Native American Rights Fund website, 'the program puts $1.9 billion in a Trust Land Consolidation Fund for buying highly fractionated land, which means multiple to many owners of one piece of land, for tribes from individuals willing to sell their land to their tribes.

'Leasing and other income from use of such land is divided among the owners such that each owner often receives only a nominal amount based on their individual interest.'

The legislation states that federal allotment policies such as the Dawes Allotment Act divided MCN landholdings into individual allotments.

The Dawes Allotment Act passed by Congress in 1887, dissected the land and granted 160 acres to the head of the household in restricted status.

Over time and because of the Act of Aug. 4, 1947 (47 Act), many of these original allotments have become fractioned.

The Act of Aug. 4, 1947, also known as the 47 Act, grants oversight of such land belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes to the State of Oklahoma. Because of the act, restricted land can be adversely possessed, meaning another party can seize control and title of land they do not own by 'squatting' or using it for 15 years.

Like tribal trust land, restricted land is not taxed. However, the individual and not the U.S. government holds title.

Federal regulations and policies require the consent of majority interest owners of an allotment before approving an agreement that allows commercial, industrial, agricultural, residential or other uses causing complications when the multiple fractioned owners of the land cannot reach an agreement for the long-term use of lands.

To reduce this, the MCN Secretary of Interior Affairs seeks to implement the land consolidation plan to purchase and consolidate tribal lands within the MCN jurisdiction and begin the process of putting said land into trust status with the U.S.

Rep. Darrell Proctor made the motion to postpone the bill stating that some parties were not involved in the discussion regarding it.

• **NCA 15-269 Amending NCA 15-056 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to MCN SSAP for the purpose of providing legal/paralegal services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens appealing their SS disability denials). Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

NCA 15-056 appropriated $57,000 for MCN SSAP to provide an attorney/paralegal to represent their clients at SS disability hearings, appeals council reviews and in federal court due to the overwhelming demand and technicalities involved in this process.

The new amendment would change the original bill so that unexpended funds from the appropriation will carry forward until fully expended rather than having them returned to the tribal treasury.

• **NCA 15-270 Appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of real property located in McIntosh County. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0.**

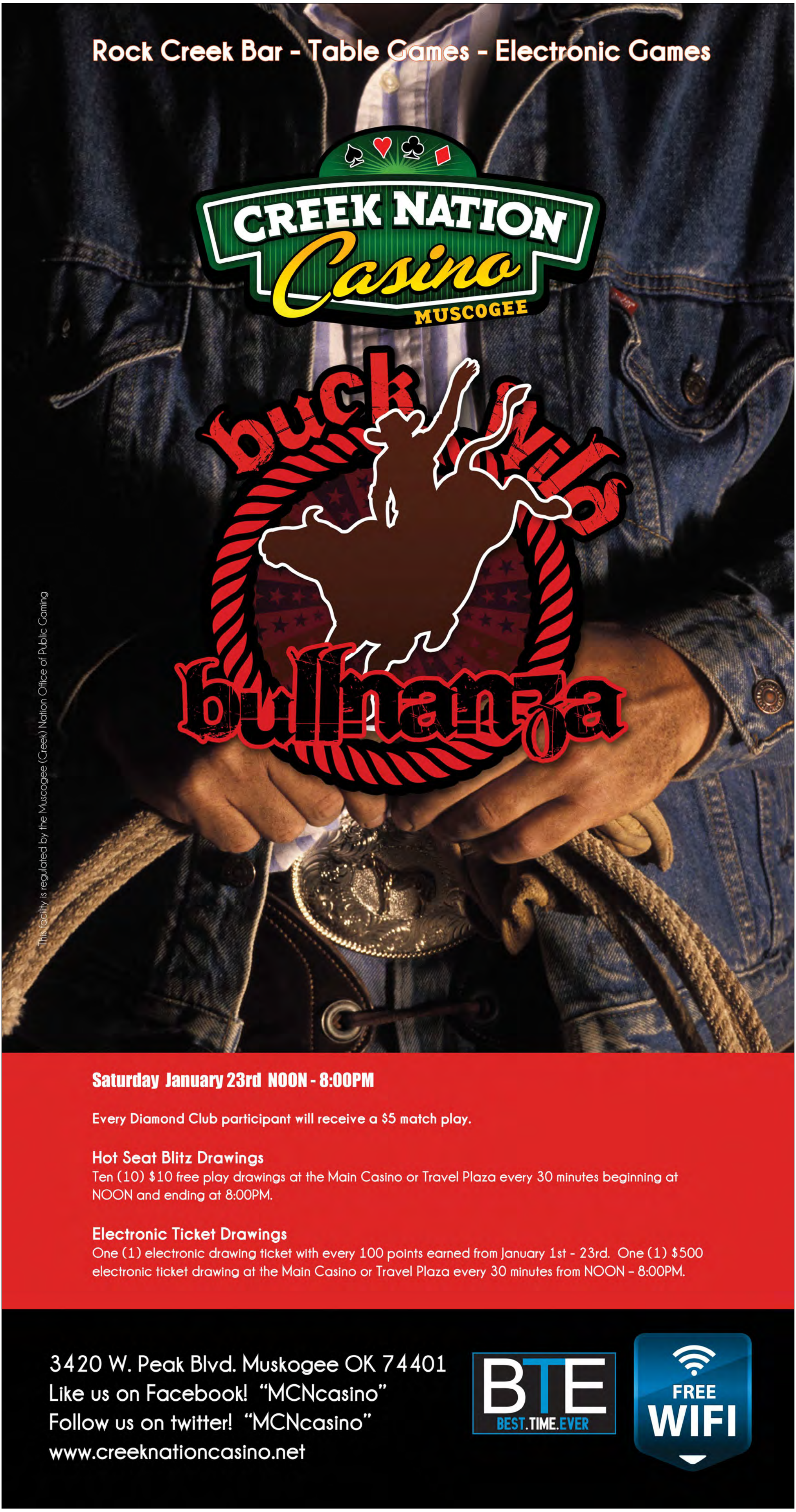
The property is 10 acres and the negotiated price is $45,000 along with $15,000 additional costs associated with title insurance and opinions, surveys, environmental studies and applicable taxes.

Ade was absent and Reps. Mitch Jack and Nichols were excused.

The upcoming quarterly session is set for Jan. 30.

View the 'Muscogee Nation News' Council coverage disclaimer in recent mid-month editions online at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/MNN.html.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



Saturday January 23rd NOON - 8:00PM

Every Diamond Club participant will receive a $5 match play.

Hot Seat Blitz Drawings
Ten (10) $10 free play drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes beginning at NOON and ending at 8:00PM.

Electronic Ticket Drawings
One (1) electronic drawing ticket with every 100 points earned from January 1st - 23rd. One (1) $500 electronic ticket drawing at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes from NOON – 8:00PM.

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www.creeknationcasino.net

BTE BEST.TIME.EVER

FREE WIFI

Toning of AP U.S. history curriculum questioned

Lomawaima inquires about indigenous representation in exam

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Native American scholars have raised concerns about the presence of the term American exceptionalism in the '2015 Advanced Placement U.S. History Curriculum Framework.'

Among these scholars is Muscogee (Creek) descendant Tsianina Lomawaima, Professor of Justice and Social Inquiry and Distinguished Scholar in Indigenous Education at Arizona State University's Center for Indian Education.

"They included that term and I would say that's perfectly appropriate because American exceptionalism, this ideology that America is this exceptional nation, ordained by a Christian god, is the best nation in the world, the most free.

"All that package of ideology, I may not personally agree with all of it. I may in fact think there's abundant historical evidence that speaks against that as a reality," Lomawaima said.

The issue, intention and material background

The term only appears in the thematic learning objectives section of the framework.

"Now there is nothing anywhere in this document that defines what American exceptionalism is really and there is nothing in this document that shows how it should be taught," Lomawaima said.

The AP placement mission as defined in the curriculum is that the program, 'enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school.'

Juliana Barr, co-chair of the AP U.S. History Development Committee for 2014-2015 explained how this applies to the curriculum and how it is used within the classroom.

"They want it to be far more about students learning how to think critically and analyze critically on how to take a set of historical documents or historical arguments offered by these different scholars and be able to pull them together to compare them, analyze them and then come up with their own analyses and conclusions about American history," Barr said.

Barr, who specializes in Native American history, explained what the committee intended with the term.

"So we view American exceptionalism as a concept and an ideology that dominated and justified the dispossession of Native Americans…It was used to justify U.S. imperialism and colonialism, first against Native Americans and then as we reach the end of the 19th century, it began to spread its reach farther than that," Barr said.

Barr said that the committee was asked to revise the framework after an overhaul introduced in 2014 to promote critical thinking faced political scrutiny.

"So I can't speak for College Board who may have a different view, particularly in the higher levels of their leadership," Barr said. "The current committee who had to deal with this demand that sprang from the right that the framework was way too left leaning and then the College Board decided that we had to go back and look at the framework and then revise it."

According to the framework, the College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. The board helps students prepare for the transition to college through programs and services such as the AP Program and SAT.

Overall material assessment

Barr, who co-authored the book 'Why You Can't Teach United States History without American Indians' in which, Lomawaima is cited as a contributor, went on to outline areas where she felt the 2015 version had improved.

"I think one of the most significant revisions our committee achieved in the spring was getting the term 'sovereignty' into the curriculum framework in two key places," she said.

Lomawaima acknowledged this, citing it in the framework.

" 'This government violated treaties and responded to resistance with military force confining us to reservations and denying tribal sovereignty,' " she said. "That's pretty dang straightforward. It's way buried but it is there."

She felt that it was included with more problematic material overall.

"This AP exam has embedded deeply within it's language and it's assumptions, many of the markers, many of the sign posts of what we might call the ideology of American exceptionalism, but it's not beating people over the head with it," Lomawaima said.

Lomawaima pointed to the Bering Land Bridge theory as an example and the concept of migration as addressed by the curriculum.

"Because that fits very neatly within an overall discourse of, 'we're all immigrants; we're all migrants' and it erases the fundamental difference between indigenous peoples and late migrant peoples," she said. "And so where that works to move Native people out of the status of inherent sovereigns who possessed these lands into just another one in the mix."

Barr said that the overhauled 2014 framework changed the curriculum to begin covering U.S. history in 1491 rather than 1607. She said this change, which was retained in 2015, is an improvement to the portrayal of Native sovereignty in the narrative of American history.

"I think it just changes everything if you establish Native American sovereignty from the beginning," she said. "To my mind, how can you possibly understand the creation of the reservation system and the devastation and denial of sovereignty if you haven't recognized the presence of sovereignty in the first place?"

Lomawaima said missing subject matter was also problematic.

"Then Native people occur in this narrative that happens next after conquest and dispossession. Even though conquest and dispossession happened over time, several hundred years in fact. That's not an ongoing or organized learning objective, 'How was this Nation founded on conquest and dispossession?' " she said.

She felt like attitudes such as the notion, 'a tragic history, the plight of the American Indian' glosses over current impact and ownership.

"The way that's framed accomplishes a couple of things. It places Native people firmly in the past, 'Oh yeah, bad things happened…' And it also displaces any feelings of guilt or responsibility that might be attached," Lomawaima said. " 'That happened in the past, that was other people. That wasn't us and it wasn't now.' "

Barr, who is Associate Professor for the Department of History at Duke University, feels that there should also be focus on the fortitude of indigenous people.

"There's also this debate in Native American history right now in terms of, if you only look at or emphasize primarily victimization and devastation, then that can also be equally negative, if you think about Native American students in the high school classrooms," she said.

Barr outlined some key words in this perspective.

"There has to be this balance to then when you think about those terms, genocide and atrocity, that you also have to tell this other story about Native Americans, which is survival, advancement; you know, adaptation," she said.

"But then they also respond to what they see in the exams and so they know what to cover."

Lomawaima spoke to the broader forces beyond the framework through speculation.

"I assume that there's a tug-of-war going on between some very principled historians who are on these various commissions and committees and political forces and the ideologies that shape all of us, including the writing of U.S. history and we can see all those things at play in this particular document.

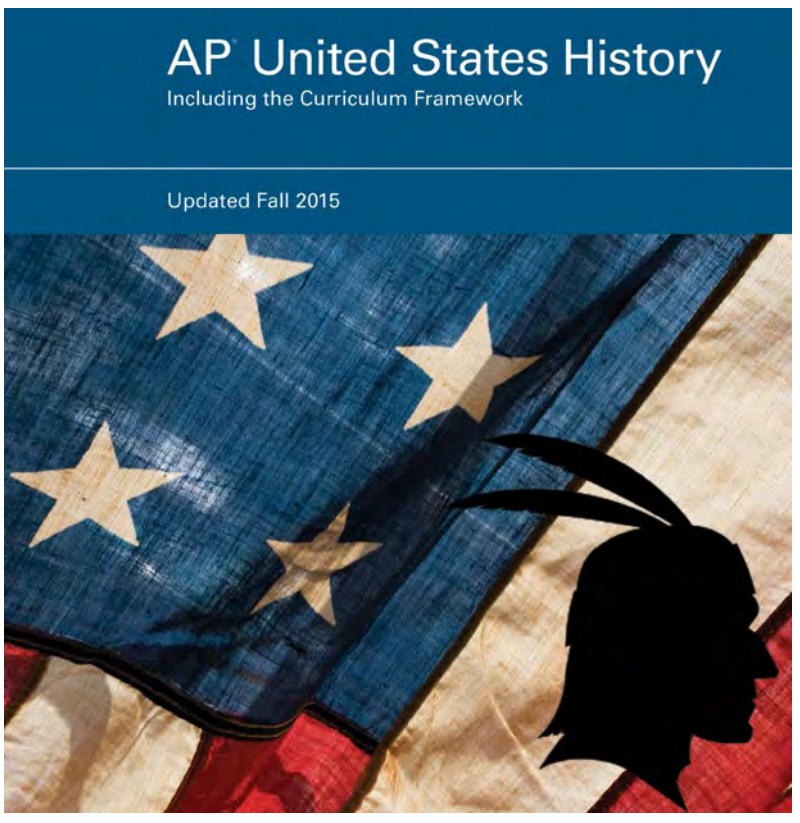
"But what happens in terms of with a particular teacher in a particular classroom and how a particular student learns or what they make of it, that's a huge universe that really we can only guess about," she said.

She also acknowledged the significance of the exam itself.

"High stakes testing is very much at the heart of this," Lomawaima said. "There is real exercise in power here of defining, what does it take to answer the exam questions correctly?"

Barr said that the framework rarely undergoes the level of changes that were introduced in 2014 but that it has shown some improvement and that she hopes her committee will get to compound on this further in the future through historiography: 'the writing of history based on the critical examination of sources,' as defined by the 'Merriam-Webster Dictionary.'

"It's not yet what most or any Native American scholars probably would want to see but we're specialists and up with current historiography but I think it's moving in the right direction," Barr said.



College Board — **Sterling Cosper**/MNN

Final thoughts

Barr reiterated that her committee as historians, is typically tasked with developing the exam itself and that their role in reworking the curriculum for 2015 sprang from a hasty request to respond to issues raised about the overhauled 2014 framework.

"Our task is exam development, it is not actually the framework itself, so where you will see our greatest efforts are in the appearance of the exams and how we are able to ask questions on the exams that get at our priorities and concerns that we want students to learn from American history," she said.

She commented on the significance of this dynamic between the framework and exam and how it plays out in presenting the material to students.

"In some ways, I think the framework is very important and in some ways I think it's just this very brief guideline and it's what happens in the classrooms and it's how the teachers expand from that framework and hopefully have the freedom to develop as they wish," she said.

Education bill includes Native provisions

Every Student Succeeds Act replaces No Child Left Behind

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law Dec. 10, 2015, which in turn replaced the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) implemented by the previous administration.

Through ESSA, students will still be tested in reading and math. The difference however is that the state and local officials will have more leeway in determining how to address underachieving schools.

The officials will be able to come up with their own goals for the schools and create their own reports on progress.

NCLBA was brought into law 14 years ago and required states to develop assessments in basic skills. For the schools to get funding, the states had to give uniform assessments to all students in a selected grade level.

An article from 'The Atlantic' summarized the controversy caused by NCLBA stating that 'the George W. Bush-era law required schools to administer annual tests in certain grades in an effort to identify and elevate the achievement of underperforming youth.

'It was also loathed for its one-size-fits-all approach to education reform, its promotion of teaching-to-the-test, and its harsh system of sanctions.'

Both of these bills are reauthorizations of original legislation introduced by former President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

How will this new act affect American Indian students?

A Dec. 3, 2015 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) press release states that, 'NIEA has been working over the past year, preserving the trust responsibility to Native students and helping strengthen the civil rights foundations upon which the ESEA was written.'

"We are grateful for the bipartisan, bicameral collaboration of Chairman Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member Patty Murray, Chairman John Kline, and Ranking Member Bobby Scott and their staffs for recognizing the importance of supporting the unique needs of our students," NIEA President Patricia Whitefoot said. "We are also thankful for the support of our tribes, for making the needs of our youth a priority across all our Nations."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. Dode Barnett said schools have already approached MCN about the Native-specific ESSA provisions.

"This act has a lot of potential," Barnett said. "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has already started this as we have many individual relationships with our school systems. We are being heard at the state level."

Barnett said she is pleased that through the act, state and local education agencies (LEAs) will need to consult with the MCN and be required to get any input for future programming.

She raised concern about wording in Title VII of the bill.

"It is a little bit ambiguous to me, on how that actually is going to work," Barnett said. "I hope that school districts don't take over Title VII funding for the whole district and still not have those separate programs for the Native students."

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, the Title VII purpose language authorizes direct assistance programs for: meeting the educational and cultural needs of Natives Americans; education of Indian children and adults; training of Natives as educators, counselors and other professions serving their people as well as research, evaluation and data collection. The NIEA release outlines other key provisions for Native students.

The act permanently authorizes grants to promote self-determination and requires states to consult with tribes in the development of state plans for grants or before making decisions affecting the opportunities of Indian children through anything funded through the bill.

It directs the U.S. secretary of education to reach out to LEAs and Bureau of Indian Education Schools eligible for Title VII grants to help them apply as well as provide technical assistance in implementing and using other provisions in the bill.

The act also funds the creation and expansion of Native language immersion programs in public schools.

OBITUARIES

STEPHANIE BERRYHILL



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Stephanie Beth Berryhill was born Aug. 30,1967 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore to Jo Ann Skaggs and Michael Barnitz Berryhill.

Stephanie belonged to the Deer (Eco) Clan and Hickory Ground (Ocevpofa) Tribal Town and was the daughter of the Alligator (Hulputta) Clan and Cussetah Tribal Town. She was raised in the Henryetta and Wilson communities in Okmulgee County.

Stephanie graduated from Henryetta High School in 1985. She obtained a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Northeastern University in Tahlequah. Stephanie completed a master's degree in linguistic anthropology at the University of Oklahoma.

Stephanie married Roger Barnett in 1998 and to this union one son, Eco Tasahce Barnett was born. In 2004, a daughter, Emily Fixico was born to Johnny Fixico and Stephanie.

She was editor of 'The Northeastern' newspaper at Northeastern University.

Later, she worked at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bingo and was managing editor of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Communications Department for several years.

Stephanie worked for the MCN Language Revitalization Program while pursuing her master's degree. After she graduated from OU, she began working for the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative in Okmulgee. It was here, that she cultivated a passion to intertwine the Mvskoke language with knowledge about food and food production.

Her life's mission was to empower and equip tribal communities with the skills and knowledge necessary for tribal food sovereignty. Prior to her declining health, Stephanie was an apprentice to her father, the late Michael Berryhill in the study of traditional foods and medicinal plants.

She also shared in his love for bow-making. Stephanie and her father were never more proud than when her son, Eco won a trophy in his first bow-shoot. She took her children on excursions into the woods with her father to pick seasonal wild onions and possum grapes.

Stephanie loved developing educational programs within local school systems and communities to teach youth about plant identification and how to grow food. Her son recalls his mother taking groups of school age children on nature outings. Eco said, "that she always included me and Emily in whatever she was doing." Stephanie shared how vital it was for children to learn by experiencing the natural world, firsthand.

She was greatly concerned about the potential for technology to override the instinctual survival skills of tribal youth in current and future generations. Stephanie was a cultural and family historian. Like her father, she leaves this legacy to her children, family, friends and tribal communities.

In the midst of her battle with cancer, she re-dedicated her life to her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Stephanie found great strength and peace through studying the Bible and listening to uplifting Christian music. Psalm 91 was both Stephanie and her father's favorite Psalm and gave her great solace throughout the last several months of her life. She shared her renewed faith with her family and friends.

When it was time to continue her life's journey, she was well-prepared to leave this earthly home for her heavenly one.

She is preceded in death by: her father, Michael Barnitz Berryhill; grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Berryhill,; great-aunt, Pauline Paskoska (Bland) Billy and grandmother, Blanche Paskoska (Bland) Berryhill; and grandmother, Maybell (Honey) Hawkins Skaggs.

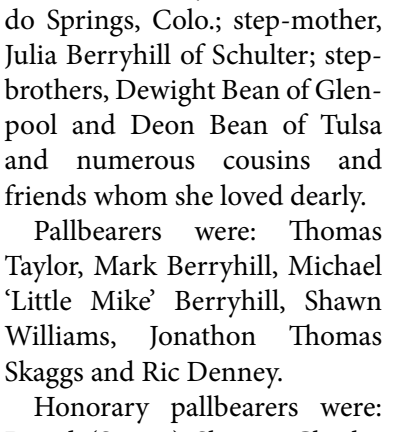
Stephanie is survived by: her children, Eco Barnett and Emily Fixico of Okmulgee; mother and step-father, Jo Ann Skaggs (Hunt) and Ray Hunt of Okmulgee; sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Elise and Thomas Taylor; nephews, Thomas and Joseph Taylor all of Broken Arrow; maternal aunts and uncles: Joyce and Chuck Bailey of Lake Texhoma; David (Sonny) Skaggs of Okmulgee; Charles (Shug) and Joan Skaggs of Checotah; Freda and Dave Determan of Minneapolis, Kan.; James Skaggs of Yukon; paternal aunts and uncles: Rita and Barton Williams of Wilson Community; Elliott and Renee Berryhill of Colorado Springs, Colo.; step-mother, Julia Berryhill of Schulter; step-brothers, Dewight Bean of Glenpool and Deon Bean of Tulsa and numerous cousins and friends whom she loved dearly.

Pallbearers were: Thomas Taylor, Mark Berryhill, Michael 'Little Mike' Berryhill, Shawn Williams, Jonathon Thomas Skaggs and Ric Denney.

Honorary pallbearers were: David (Sonny) Skaggs, Charles (Shug) Skaggs, James Skaggs, Barton Williams and Rev. Del Beaver.

Funeral services for Stephanie Berryhill was held Jan. 2 at Integrity Funeral Service. Stephanie was laid to rest in the Berryhill-Kanard Family Cemetery located on her grandfather Thomas Jefferson Berryhill's original allotment in Wilson Community.

MILLIE HARVEY



TULSA, Okla. — Millie Haynes Harvey, a resident of Henryetta, passed away Dec. 22, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 73. She was born Feb. 10, 1942 in Henryetta to Lawrence Haynes and Effie (Harjo) Haynes.

Millie was a loving mother, grandmother and an avid University of Oklahoma Sooners football fan. She was also a member of Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church.

She married John William Harvey Nov. 15, 1963 in Henryetta.

Millie is survived by her husband John William Harvey of the home, daughter, Christine Rogers & husband Gerald Bellamy of Glenpool, daughter, Kathryn Hernandez & husband Mario of Tulsa, daughter, Michelle Cole of Minooka, Illinois, son, John Harvey Jr. & wife Tina of Tulsa, 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, brother, John Haynes (Pee Wee) of Tulsa, brother, Chotkey Haynes (Joe) of Tahlequah, brother, Randy Dunn of Oklahoma City, brother, Larry Haynes of Oklahoma City, brother, Johnny Haynes of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, aunt, Rosetta Morgan of Henryetta, as well as a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A wake service was scheduled for Dec. 28, 2015 at Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church south of Henryetta.

Funeral services were scheduled for Dec. 29, 2015 at Hickory Ground #1 Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor and Rev. Wallace Gambler, officiating.

Services are under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta, Oklahoma.

TREASA ISOLA



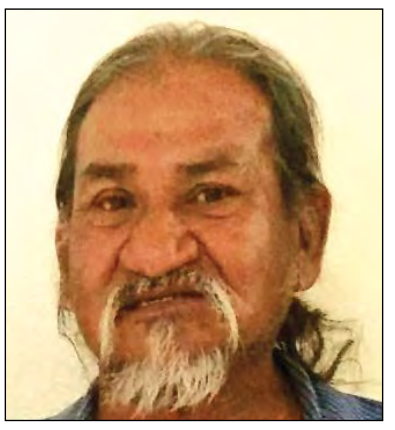
OKMULGEE, Okla. — Treasa Lee Isola born Oct. 17, 1958, went home to our Lord Dec. 17, 2015.

She was preceded by: her father, Johnny Lee Wisner. She was a loving daughter, mother and grandmother (Nana). She devoted her life to her Lord and her family.

She is survived by her: mother, Jean Gossett; children, Jonathon, Julie and Jennifer Isola and grandchildren, Kourtney, Megan, Paige, Brendon, Alex and Deacon.

She will be missed, dearly, and remembered forever.

LYMON YARGEE



SEMINOLE COUNTY — Lymon 'KATCV' Yargee, Sr., 65, longtime Seminole and Hughes County resident, passed from this life Jan. 4, 2016 in Seminole County following a tragic auto, pedestrian accident.

Lymon was born June 30, 1950 in Horntown to parents, John Yargee and Lizzie (Lowe) Yargee.

Lymon married Deanna Jo Tiger in the Muscogee (Creek Nation) of Oklahoma. Sadly, she preceded him in death in February 2003, after over 20 years of marriage.

Lymon was a general labor contractor. He was also a member of the Bird Creek Baptist Church. Lymon was also affiliated with Alabama Quarsartee Ceremonial Grounds.

On Jan. 3, 2014 Lymon was baptized at Bird Creek Baptist Church by Rev. Kenneth Cooper.

He was also a Muscogee (Creek) citizen of the Tiger (KATCVLKE) Clan.

Survivors include his: sons, Christopher Yargee of Ada, Lymon Yargee Jr. and his wife Judy of Holdenville; Jack Tiger Sr. of Lawton; daughters, Jennifer Yargee of Ada, Helena Wind and her husband, Kelly of Earlsboro, Hayga Chalepah and her husband, Thomas Hulbutta of Shawnee, Lymona Yargee and her husband, Eugene Harjo Jr. of Konawa; brothers, Amon Yargee of Weleetka; Thomas Yargee and his wife, Roberta of Wewoka; sisters, Mary Yargee Harjo of Holdenville, Wanda Moses of Wewoka, 33 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and a host of other family and dear friends.

Lymon is preceded in death by his parents, John Yargee and Lizzie (Lowe) Yargee and by his wife, Deanna Jo Tiger Yargee.

Wake services were scheduled for Jan. 6 at the Levina Beaver Community Center near Wetumka.

Funeral Services were scheduled for Jan. 7 at the Levina Beaver Community Center with Rev. Houston Tiger and Rev. Bill Hobia officiating. Interment will followed at the Yeager City Cemetery in Yeager.

Casket bearers were men from Alabama-Quarsartee Stomp Ground.

Honorary bearers were: Frisco Yargee, Cody Yargee, Yahola Wind, Charles Yargee, Tony Yargee and Wesley Yargee.

Services are under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole.

Messages of condolences may be sent to the family online at: www.swearingenfuneral.com.



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Psalms 25:21

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Mvskoke Youth Choir established

Youth keep tradition alive through song

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What once started as an idea soon became a reality. With the help of Muscogee (Creek) citizens, the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program and the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program, the Mvskoke Youth Christmas Choir was established Nov. 18, 2015.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development, Training Coordinator Cassandra Thompson came up with the idea of a youth choir and then approached MNYS Director Nancy Mason for help.

"The reason I wanted to start it is that I realized that a lot of the young kids will not have the opportunity to hear the song like how I did when I was young when there used to be packed churches," Thompson said.

The two worked together to find youth willing to participate and on the first day of practice, 18 showed up.

"We've been wanting to focus more on getting our youth who don't do sports into things they like, like arts and music and that kind of things so it was just kind of a perfect fit for our program," Mason said.

The youth choir collaborated with Mvskoke Language Specialist/Coordinator Minnie Proctor to help the students learn at their own levels and on correct pronunciation of the language.

"I definitely think it's very important for that part of our culture to be carried on," Thompson said.

Participants must be Muscogee (Creek) citizens, in grades fifth-12th and willing to learn three-five Mvskoke hymns and the language.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kintv Deere is a 16-year-old sophomore from Okemah High School that joined the youth choir.

"I thought it would be a fun way to learn my Native language more instead of just doing classes," Deere said. "It's funner to sing it and you get it more memorized in your mind."

The youth choir has sung at events such as the Council House Lighting Ceremony and the National Council meetings.

The youth choir performed at the MCN Inauguration Ceremony of the Principal Chief, Second Chief and National Council Representatives Jan. 2 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

"I thought that it would be a good time to learn some of the Christmas songs that are in the language," Thompson said. "Also, if it happens which I think it will if these kids want to continue on, we can begin to learn, well we already have learned some of the Mvskoke hymns that are sang at the churches. Hopefully continue on and continue learning."

For more information email MNYS at: youthservices@mcn-nsn.gov or call Mason at: 918-549-2557.

Also contact Cassandra Thompson at: cthompson@mcn-nsn.gov or 918-752-7939.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
A.G., DOB: 07/19/02) Case No. JV-2015-16
J.G., DOB: 12/12/03)
Alleged Deprived Child.)

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Samuel Gonzales, Natural Father to A. G. and J.G.
Unknown
Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 15th day of April, 2016 at the hour of 9:00 A.m. for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 5th day of January 2016.

[Seal]

Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: F. T. J. M.) Case No. GD-2015-
A Minor Child.) GD-2015-46-JC

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Unknown Father

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2015-46, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: F.T.J.M minor child. The action alleges that the petitioners are entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 5th day of February, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioners as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 21 day of Dec, 2015.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: (Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT FILED
2016 JAN 4 AM 9 49
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER
COURT CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:)
H.M.V.)
A Minor Child) CASE NO: AD-2015-16-JC

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Faulina Kay Deere
All Interested Parties

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Adoption has been filed in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, AD-2015-16-JC in the matter of adoption of H.M.V. the minor child. A copy of the Petition for Adoption may be obtained from the Court named above or the Attorney listed below.

You are hereby notified that an Adoption Hearing will be held on the Petition for Adoption before the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, on the 5th day of February at 9:00 AM.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said Adoption Petition prays that a Final Adoption Order be entered in accordance with MCN Adoption Code unless an objection is filed prior to said noted date and time of Adoption Hearing by an interested party.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of January 2016.

DONNA BEAVER, COURT CLERK
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District

By:

Approved:

Brenda S. Golden, MCNBA #792
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 741
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Phone: (918) 758-6773
Fax: (918) 752-1350

Native Paw Prints decor store open

SAPULPA, Okla. — Native Paw Prints upstairs at The Vintage Rose, 105 E. Dewey in downtown Sapulpa is now open.

They sell upholstery, home accessories, Native art as well refurbished, vintage and painted furniture, etc.

The hours are:

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

To reach the store line call: 918-224-0254.

For more information call Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tracy Gibson at: 918-521-7829 or email: trandygibson@yahoo.com.

Wild onion dinner set for Feb. 6

BOWLEGS, Okla. — Kaney Chapel United Methodist Church has set a Wild Onion dinner for Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners are $10 for all you can eat, $5 for children six and under and $10 for carry-out.

For more information call: 580-925-2066.

Citizen business 'Hair by Ness' open

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'Hair by Ness' is now open for haircuts, perms, highlights, waxing and color Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 1713 College Ln., Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

For more information or an appointment call or text: 918-758-9312.

CMN seeking public comments for accreditation evaluation

CMN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about CMN in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit March 7-8 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation.

Comments regarding the college are due Feb. 7 and may be submitted to: The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL, 60604 or on the commission website at: www.hlcommission.org.

Comments must be in writing and address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.

OCMA to host Mvskoke language camp

MCN MLPP/*Media Release*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 6-10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association community center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. The camp will include multiple cultural activities and applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) entering the seventh-12th grades and have transportation.

For applications, which are due Feb. 29, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.



A new year dawns for ages 65 plus

Highland Park Manor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — How did we seniors ring in New Year's? Well, many attended parties at local community centers or within facilities. Others carried on with established family traditions. One of the most common traditions is eating black-eyed peas.

One source relates this practice back to the Jewish Rosh Hasanah. However, in the south it goes back to the Civil War and slavery.

The crop was initially planted for agricultural use but then became a staple for the slaves as Sherman's troops ignored this crop while stealing and destroying other crops, thereby becoming a nourishing major food source for all.

In the Mvskoke tradition, the Green Corn Festival, occurring in the late summer, celebrates the new year and is a time of forgiveness and purification. Old ways are cast aside marking a new beginning.

The top five resolutions for seniors were: plan to age gracefully, start a letter journal, get tech savvy, talk about the hard stuff (care and independence issues) and unlike the younger age groups whose number one was to lose weight, seniors wanted to maintain social wellness. This means contacts, connections and interaction with others. Each new year is a chance to celebrate life with joy and laughter, so I'll end with somewhat appropriate prayer for the elderly.

'God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do and the eyesight to tell the difference.' Happy New Year!

Sources: Comfort Keepers, Guy Thomas and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website.

MNN submission Deadlines

Feb. 1 — Jan. 22

Feb. 15 — Feb. 5

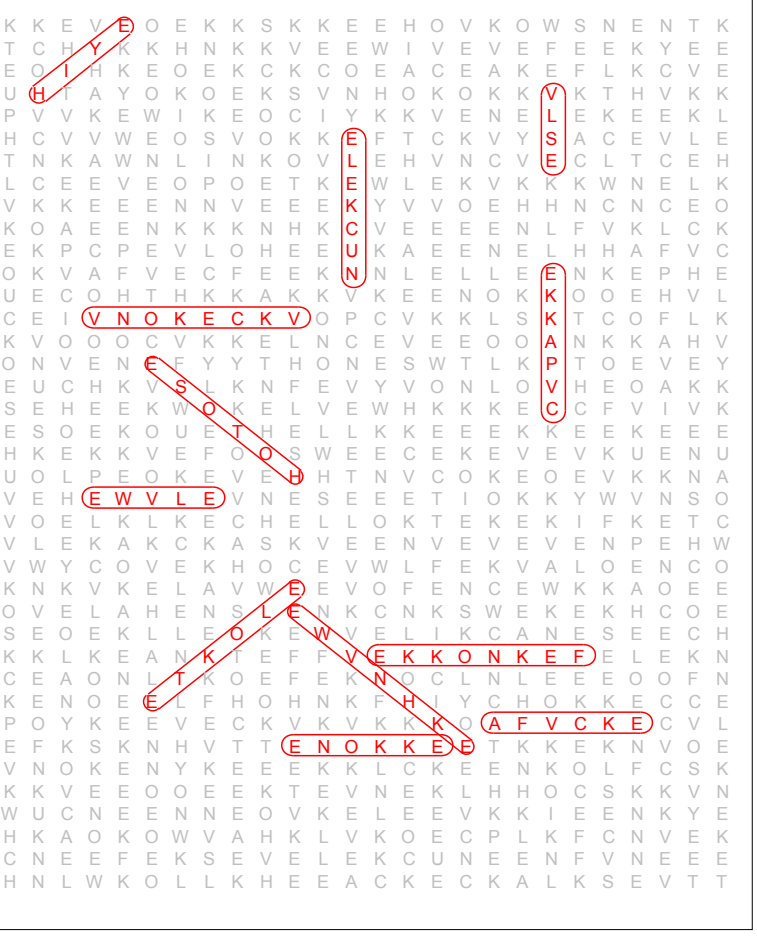
March 1 — Feb. 22

March 15 — March 7

April 1 — March 24

April 15 — April 7

Jan. 1 word search solution



INAUGURATION








GREAT SEAL OF THE








GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.











Photos by:

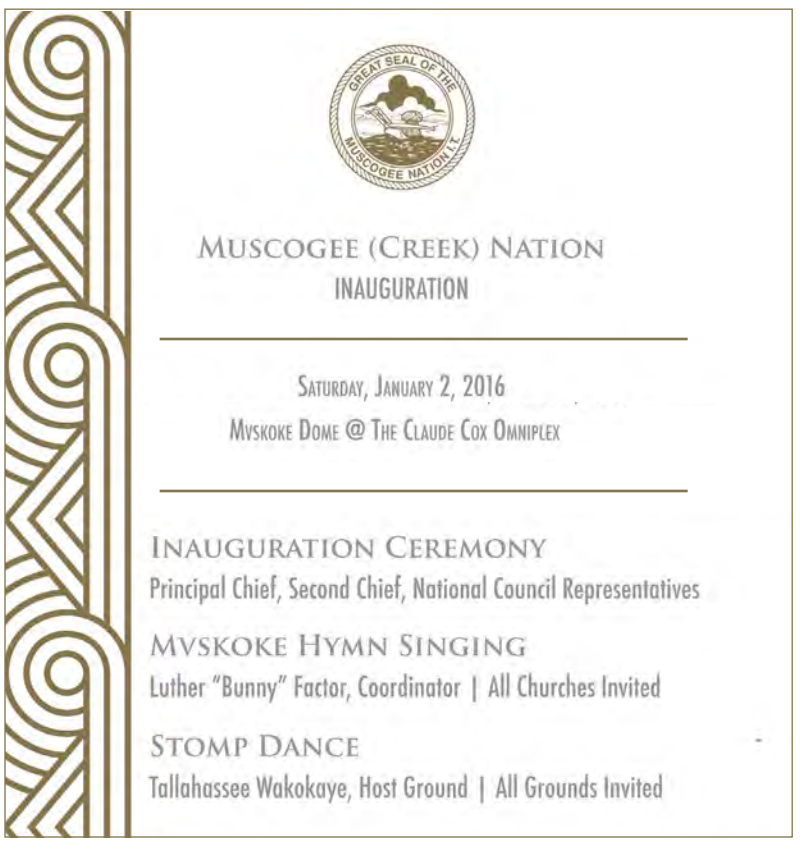
Chelsie Rich



& spread layout by:

Amanda Rutland







Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Feb. 1, 2016 "Hotvle Hvse" Wind Month

Vol. 46, Issue 3

Coming and Going with Joy Harjo — Page 6

Citizen named Mr. Indian OU — Page 7



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

MCN to receive grant to house homeless veterans

Money, regulations set for end of January

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of five tribes in the state and one of 26 across the nation to receive new funding to assist Native American veterans experiencing homelessness.

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro announced the effort Jan. 8 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting in Tulsa.

According to a HUD press release, $5.9 million in total grants will be made to, "offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native American veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness."

MCN is slated for $216,566 to distribute housing vouchers for eligible veterans.

During the ITC meeting, Castro said the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program would administer the monies. He said the program will coordinate with existing VA offices to provide case management and clinical services.

"An America that's more inclusive and that honors the dignity of all citizens is a nation that's stronger and one that's more secure," Castro said. "Extending the benefits of HUD-VASH to more Native Americans is one way that we build a more inclusive nation. Listening to and learning from Native American leaders is another."

MCN Housing Department Administrative Manager Brent Beaver said the vouchers would cover a one-year period.

He also said Housing will be coordinating with the VA offices in Muskogee and Tulsa to assist with other needed services and management. He estimated Jan. 12 that the money and the accompanying rules might be available by the end of the month.

MCN Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis is hoping none of the funding is destined for administrative or other costs.

"I want to ensure that every dollar and coin is used for Mvskoke veterans," Davis said.

Davis said he already has a number of veterans that could use the new grants.

MCN entities are in a waiting period until they receive the funding and accompanying regulations.

Creek Nation Eufaula Casino hosts grand re-opening

Celebration held for remodel completion

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

EUFAULA, Okla. — The newly remodeled Creek Nation Eufaula Casino welcomed players and Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials Jan. 9 for the casino's grand re-opening ceremony.

CNEC General Manager Derek Fife said the facility was in need of a remodel.

"It's just a full interior remodel. We completely gutted both buildings, put in the new décor," Fife said. "It was outdated, completely outdated. This building has been here since 1985."

Fife said the project was planned to take 63 days but finished ahead of schedule.

"The remodel ended up being finished in 24 days due to the hard work from the vendors and the employees and then, help from the sister properties," Fife said.

The remodel incorporated additional seating for the café and newer chairs.

"We have never had enough seating for our café. We always had two tables that had four chairs at each table and customers would say, 'Well, we are not going to come and eat if you are not going to give us a place to sit down and eat,' " Fife said.

CNEC Promotions Manager Leroy Harjo said the staff enjoyed the remodel but that he believes the players will enjoy it more.

"I mean we see them day in and day out every day and we're just glad we give them a place to really come to now," Harjo said.

CNEC partnered with Player Performance Group, a company that offers marketing and promotions services for gaming, to offer a new promotion for the casino reveal.

PPG President and

Re-opening ~ 3



Jessica McBride/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation created Onefire Holding Company LLC is a minority investor in the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue, the first of which is set to open in spring 2016 at the MCN-owned RiverWalk Complex in Jenks, Okla.

FlyingTee scheduled to open spring 2016

MCN to benefit as landlord, investor

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

JENKS, Okla. — Sometimes seen as a game for the elite, the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue at the RiverWalk Complex in Jenks will put clubs in the hands of anyone willing to take a swing.

According to the FlyingTee website, the venue will aim to put a new spin on the sport by combining golf and food for family outings, work parties or date night. It will also offer golf lessons, camps, birthday parties and events.

Construction on the project began in April 2015 and FlyingTee is expected to open in spring 2016.

The venue differs from its main competitor, TopGolf with technology and golf games.

The 53,000 square foot, three-level facility will incorporate 60 bay areas for up to six people to swing into a netted field of targets, and play four different golf games such as PIG, 21, darts or long-drive.

In September 2015, FlyingTee announced a partnership with Protracer, a software technology company that provides real-time golf ball tracking for televised golf tournaments and driving ranges.

Instead of having microchipped golf balls, golfers will be able to hit real golf balls and track their ball with 3D sensors. Customers will be able track their ball speed, velocity, spin and trajectory from inside their bay.

The bays are climate controlled so that the facility can be open during any season.

Golfers that dream of teeing off at Professional Golf Asso-

FlyingTee ~ 4

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

'Y'All Queada,' fake Nez Perce, actor's speech, new MCN chief

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An armed 'militia' in Oregon declared that they want to return the federally-owned Malhuer National Wildlife Refuge to its owners 'we the people.' The group came to Oregon in support of some ranchers who were convicted of arson in a federal court and to protest federal land use policies and management,

The AR-15 totin' protesters say they'll want a plan to return the federal lands to the public — meaning area ranchers, they said. The local folks say, 'go home.' Facebook posts have called them, 'Y'all Queada,' 'Yokel Harum' and 'Vanilla Issus.'

What they fail to take into consideration is that the land belonged to the Northern Paiute people. Burns-Paiute Tribal Chair Charlotte Rodrique said in an interview with 'National Public Radio' that the tribe was the original owner and laughed that she was composing a letter of acceptance.

Did you happen to see the Rose Bowl parade and notice the Appaloosa Horse Club wearing simulated Nez Perce regalia? Well, 'Indian

Emvpanayv ~ 6

Onefire to open CNG station in Glenpool

$1 million in revenue projected for first year

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed TR 15-208 during the Nov. 21, 2015 regular session authorizing the construction and operation of a fuel and compressed natural gas station on tribal-owned land in Glenpool.

The Council also passed TR 15-213, allowing Onefire Holding Company LLC to construct and operate the station.

Onefire CEO Mike Payne said that the station will provide gas and CNG fuels to the general public and the Nation.

"CNG, as I'm sure you know, is an increasingly used transportation fuel and it's a clean fuel. It's less expensive, even in today's environment when gas prices are down, it's still cheaper," Payne said. "So there's a lot of opportunity with CNG and it's growing. There's also state tax credits that help make those investments in the infrastructure to provide CNG."

According to www.altfuelprices.com, CNG prices in Tulsa range from $0.95-1.69 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE). There are around 10 CNG stations in the Tulsa area and one in Okmulgee.

Several tribes throughout Indian Country are making the conversion to CNG vehicles or operate CNG stations.

The Chickasaw Nation opened its first public CNG station in 2010. The tribe also announced an agreement in 2014 with the State of Oklahoma to convert their fleet to CNG

CNG ~ 2

BIA officers to be provided overdose prevention drug



Darren DeLaune/MNN
White House Director of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli announces during a Dec. 16, 2015 press conference at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, Okla., that the Indian Health Service will provide Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers with the overdose prevention drug Naloxone.

Lighthorse to inquire about Naloxone

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — A press conference was held Dec. 16, 2016 at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa to announce an agreement to equip Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers with a drug called Naloxone.

Naloxone, which is also called Narcan, is a drug that will be used to prevent overdoses from opioids such as hydrocodone, oxycodone and heroin.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, Naloxone works by neutralizing opioids in the body and increasing breathing.

It only works if a person has opioids in their system. The medication will not work on other drugs.

Indian Health Services Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Susan Karol, announced that 91 IHS facilities across the country will dispense Naloxone to BIA officers. The officers will be trained in correctly identifying an overdose and applying the proper dose of Naloxone to treat these instances.

"IHS will also provide the support to BIA officers in safely and effectively handling the medication," Karol said.

Karol said the drug will be dispensed in 2016 and will be covered by IHS.

The Director of National Drug Control Policy at the White House, Michael Botticelli, led the conference.

"We are here today to discuss concrete steps we can take to reduce the opioids epidemic," Botticelli said.

According to an IHS press release, the initiative began in October 2015 through an effort by President Obama to address drug abuse and the heroin epidemic.

"While the administration is focusing on doing what we can to tackle this epidemic, we know that we can't do it alone," Botticelli said. "Many of the answers to these issues come from local efforts."

Botticelli said he was pleased that the State of Oklahoma has expanded prevention efforts.

"We are here today to build on the work already being done and to help reduce drug overdose deaths in Oklahoma and among American Indian and Alaskan Natives," Botticelli said.

According to an article in 'The Daily Oklahoman,' Naloxone kits were given to officers of the Tulsa Police Department to help with this as well. These kits are starting to spread throughout the Oklahoma police departments and now the focus is on the BIA tribal officers.

"This type of help between public health and public safety is exactly what we need," Botticelli said.

Deputy Associate Director of Field Operations for the BIA, Charles Addington said active and cadet officers would undergo training with Naloxone.

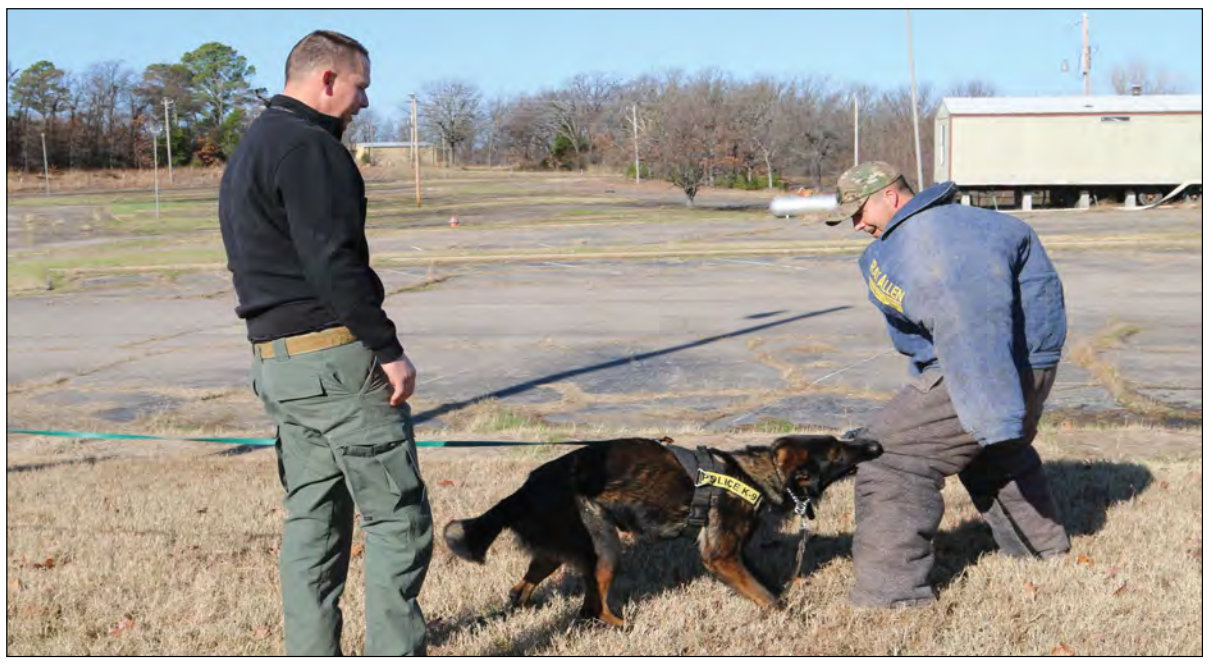
"The training course will approximately be eight hours and we will start training in 2016," Addington said.

MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Chief Robert Hawkins has seen the Naloxone administered and is pleased at what it can do and how it can help save lives.

"I have seen it used on someone who had an overdose and it is very effective," Hawkins said.

Hawkins is looking into getting the kits and training for LTPD.

"We know there is training that we will have to take and we are hoping to get started on that in the near future." he said.



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse K-9 Unit Police Officers Chad Morris (left) and Patrick Williams (right) go through bite training Dec. 15, 2015 in Eufaula, Okla., with Officer Zero who belongs to Morris.

Lighthorse K-9s put 'bite' on crime

Tribal police introduce unit to citizens

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

EUFAULA, Okla. — Bleck, Zero and Donja. Do those names ring a bell? They sound like names off of the old game show 'American Gladiators' don't they?

However, these are the names of dogs with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department K-9 Unit.

The unit, which involves a canine accompanied by a handler, provides protection for officers as well as pedestrians and is also used to detect narcotics.

"If there is a reasonable suspicion to do a free air sniff of a vehicle or a certain area, then a K-9 officer will be there to assist the other officers," K-9 Officer Don Feather said.

Most of the dogs are imported breeds such as German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois.

"It depends on what the department is looking for and what the handler is looking for in a dog," K-9 Officer Patrick Williams said. "If they want a handler protection dog, chances are they will go with a Shepherd or Malinois."

The dogs with LTPD are dual purpose, meaning they can sniff for narcotics as well as article recovery and track and apprehension. Article recovery means they can search for human odor.

Williams said narcotics trafficking is cause for concern because major U.S. Highways run through and intersect within the State of Oklahoma and MCN jurisdiction.

"We have a good size jurisdiction that our department covers," Williams said.

The handlers have to meet a minimum of 16 hours of state and federal required training for their canines.

"This is to keep the dog credible in our court system," Williams said. "So our dog has to be properly trained and we have to document the training."

Williams said the LTPD officers feel the need for constant training and the majority of this consists of real life scenario mock-ups.

"You have to continuously train your dog and maintain him," Williams said. "Because every handler I know, they want their dog to outdo the other canine."

K-9 Officer Chad Morris further explained the reasoning for this.

"They are intense for everyone of us because we are a team. With the tasks that our dogs go through, we put them through anything because we have to make sure that with the situations that we may face, the dog always wins," Morris said.

Morris said the dogs accompany them to their homes where training continues off-duty.

"This is a 24-7, 365 days job," Morris said. "I know we all do little things at our house for our dogs. Each one of these dogs, to the handlers, is a family member."

Both the officers and canines also attend school together.

"When I take Bleck to a school, he knows the difference," laughed Williams. "He knows when we are training and we have to do certain things it is time for work but when we go to school functions, he also knows that it is time to be nice."

CNG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and in return, received a more beneficial tax rate for their tobacco compact.

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma announced the conversion of CNG transit vehicles in early 2015. The project was funded by a grant.

Payne said that the Onefire CNG station will be open within the next 30-45 days. Onefire has projected $1 million in revenue for the first year the station is open.

"I would love to see us expand CNG filling stations. There's some tribes around the country that have done very, very well with CNG filling stations," Payne said. "And I think as we prove this first one, then we would absolutely be looking at opportunities throughout the Creek Nation, but we've also talked to other tribes in Oklahoma that are interested in us maybe coming to their territories as well."

Payne said that the revenue from the station will be split between MCN and Onefire.

He said that this project will not be competing with the travel plazas operated by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises.

"We really believe it to be a different market," Payne said. "This is not a convenience store type set up, this is like a fast fill."

The station will be built at the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street. The 19.6 acres of property was purchased by MCN in 2002.

In 2013, the Council passed NCA 13-267 appropriating $2.5 million for two CNG stations to be placed on tribal-owned property.

According to the recently passed legislation, a portion of these funds will be utilized for the upcoming facility.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Native American Journalist Association

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Amanda Rutland/MNN
The Creek Nation Eufaula Casino celebrated the first remodel of the facility and office space in nine years Jan. 9 onsite in Eufaula, Okla.

RE-OPENING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cherokee Nation citizen Chris Province said the idea was to reintroduce the property to patrons.

CNEC mailed out scratch cards to anyone with a player's club card who has been to the casino in the last three years. The cards were worth at least $10.

> **"It's just a full interior remodel. We completely gutted both buildings, put in the new décor…It was outdated, completely outdated."**
>
> **— CNEC**
> **General Manager Derek Fife**

"Somewhere out there is a $5,000 scratch card winner. If they come in and show up great and if not, all their scratch cards go into a hopper, floor hopper, at the end of the night, at 10 o'clock we will draw for a $5,000 winner," Harjo said.

Province said the promotion was about giving players a new experience.

"When they walk in now, they are going to get a different experience. I know what the service level and the quality of staff that Derek operates here, they are going to have that," Province said.

Province said the promotion will continue every Saturday in January and the casino will launch new promotions in February.

Fife alluded to the funding source for the project during the event.

"We started this remodel project about eight years ago," he said. "After we did the other one and we started saving money and it has taken awhile to get it done. But once we found the right company, we started negotiations."

The 'Muscogee Nation News' sent several inquiries regarding the source and project cost to Fife the week of Jan. 11 and did not receive a response as of press time.

Speed reduced at Highway 75 and Preston intersection



Darren DeLaune/MNN
A speed reduction was implemented Dec. 10, 2015 on the portion of Hwy. 75 that intersects with Preston, Okla., changing the limit from 65 to 55 mph.

Nation involved in safety project

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A speed reduction was implemented Dec. 10, 2015 on the portion of Hwy. 75 that intersects with Preston, changing the limit from 65 to 55 mph.

Flashing lights and a speed indicator accompanied the change so drivers can moderate their speed accordingly.

Oklahoma District 1 Transportation Commissioner, John Fidler said the change was made to enhance safety.

"Too many accidents there," Fidler said. "It is such a treacherous part the way the road is built there coming from the south and north bound."

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said his administration took initiative when two people lost their lives in a collision at the intersection.

"Unfortunately, there was an accident that took the lives of people that I knew and ironically, from Bristow," Tiger said. "There have been incidents in the past at the intersection and I felt that something needed to be done."

Tiger said that he talked to Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley about what could be done at the intersection.

"We started looking at how we can improve or diffuse some of the accidents at that part of the highway," Tiger said.

Fidler said he believes the change will help alleviate problems.

"This is going to help traffic and make it safe for the drivers," he said.

Fidler said the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has a plan to make a j-turn at the intersection in 2017.

According to the Missouri Department of Transportation website, 'a j-turn is an alternative to traditional roadway intersections on a four-lane highway.

'Instead of motorists crossing fast-moving lanes of traffic to get to the opposing lanes, drivers at a j-turn intersection turn right in the same direction of traffic, merge into the left lane and then make a left turn in the direction they intend to travel.'

"Installing the J-turn should add additional safety for the motorists at the intersection," Fidler said.

MCN Department of Education and Training Career Specialist Kimberly Martel drives by the Preston intersection on her way to and from work each day.

"This is not only benefiting me but everyone who commutes through that area," Martel said. "There are people who travel there at a high rate of speed so this should help drivers to be more cautious on their drive."

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions.
$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day ($200 total),
or $10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Red Stick Warriors Association promotes Mvskoke language, culture

Classes become nonprofit organization

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A personal interest in learning the Mvskoke language has grown into a nonprofit organization with a mission to save the Mvskoke language and culture.

Red Stick Warriors Association Co-founder and Seminole Nation citizen David Frank said the journey started with the 'Mvskoke Word of the Day' Facebook group.

Frank posted an invitation to the group's page to study the Mvskoke language at his home.

"I just thought hey maybe five or six people that live in the [Oklahoma] City area might want to come over," he said. "Not necessarily have a teacher, but just share what we know and just help each other study."

Enough people expressed interest that Frank rented a location and acquired a teacher.

"I think the smallest class we have had was 15 people and the largest class was 35," he said.

Frank credits Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jeremy Fultz for taking the classes to the next level.

"Eventually, I probably would have recorded the class but I never would have live streamed it," he said. "He is just real savvy about those kind of things."

Together, they founded the Red Stick Warriors Association, named for the Upper Creek warriors who fought against encroachment on both tribal lands and the traditional way of life.

"We want people to know that the Red Stick warrior's spirit didn't die at Horseshoe Bend and we want to carry that on for them," he said. "We are in a different kind of fight now and that is preserve our language and our culture."

RSWA launched a website where they made past language classes available along with editorial segments and pertinent tribal information.

All of the information is free to access.

Frank said he felt this was a positive way to give back to the community.

Frank said some of RSWA videos may touch on controversial issues, but they are not pushing an agenda.

"We want to make sure we stay neutral and we know somewhere along the way there may be some touchy issues like the interview we had with Marilyn Dan of the Five Civilized Tribes Freedmen Association," he said.

Frank said they want to present information and let people decide how to feel.

He said RSWA has several projects planned for the future. One of those plans is a set of language DVDs.

"You can see two people having a conversation in your home with subtitles and watch as a family and pick up on it and replay it and learn it," Frank said.

Other discussed projects include story and hymn CDs and a Mvskoke language class in the Tulsa area.

For more information about RSWA, visit: www.redstickwarriors.com.



Jessica McBride/MNN

Construction crews work on the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue next to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation-owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks, Okla.

FLYINGTEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ciation courses, or playing at the historical course at St. Andrews, Scotland can feel like a pro without leaving the Tulsa area. Screens in each bay offer views of 18 courses and real-time weather conditions as you play the chosen course.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 14-213 on Dec. 20, 2014, appropriating $11.6 million to Onefire Holding Company for the purpose of constructing FlyingTee.

RW Restaurant Development provided the remaining funds for the $22 million project.

The concept was a vision brought to life by Oklahomans John Vollbrecht, Ryan Tawwater and James Vollbrecht.

"… working with Onefire, they talked to us as well about being an anchor tenant to redevelop this area, and as we looked more into what this area could become over time, we just thought it was a great fit and went from there," John Vollbrecht said.

Onefire CEO Mike Payne said that there is a two-part relationship between MCN and FlyingTee, as landlord/tenant and as an investor.

FlyingTee has signed a 25-year lease for the occupation of the site at RiverWalk.

"Onefire, as an investment firm, has purchased an interest in FlyingTee outside of just this building," Payne said. "So, as they continue to grow, as they continue to have opportunities both throughout the United States and internationally, then we will participate in all of that growth as a minority owner of the FlyingTee."

Payne said that part of the investment included a seat at the board for FlyingTee in order to be a part of the business decision-making process.

In September 2015, FlyingTee announced the Milstein family as a company investor. The family's portfolio includes golf investments such as Nicklaus Companies and GolfLogix.

The Milstein family also holds a FlyingTee license and plans to bring the venue to the Asian market.

FlyingTee expects to employ 110-150 people from entry to executive level positions at the RiverWalk location after the construction phase is complete.

"We encourage any and all Creek citizens interested in employment to hit that website (FlyingTee) and apply to those jobs," Payne said.

Golfers will be able to take a glance to the east across the Arkansas River from any level of the facility and see the Margaritaville-themed expansion of the River Spirit Casino.

"We look at ourselves as an amenity to the resort that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is building… So when people want to stay for the weekend or bring their families for the weekend, they have a place they can come and have an entertainment venue outside of what's just in the casino hotel," John Vollbrecht said.

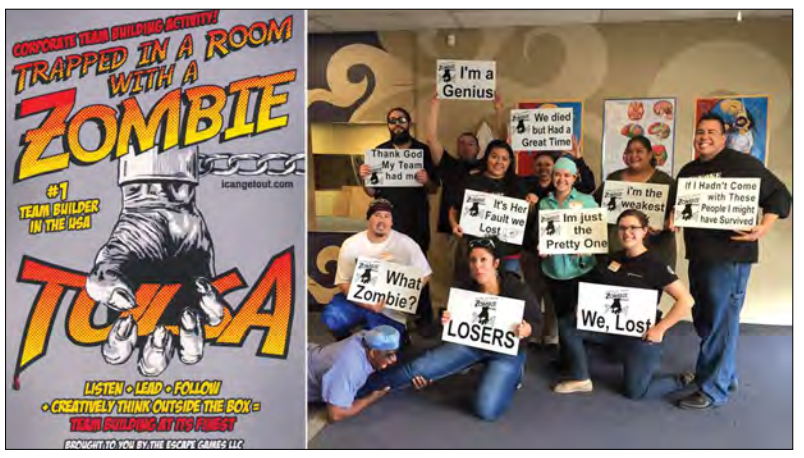
Each level of the venue will provide a different dining experience such as a sports bar, rotisserie or rooftop bar.

"It's all about the entire entertainment experience. It's not just the golf or just the food and beverage, it's how we tie each of those together and how we create different experiences depending on what each customer is looking for," Tawwater said.

Pricing for golf depends on the time and day of the week. Bay pricing will also differ from that of the dining settings.

For more information on FlyingTee including available positions visit: www.flyingteegolf.com.





Courtesy Photo

Mvskoke Media staff participated in The Escape Games: Trapped in a Room with a Zombie team building exercise Dec. 8, 2015 offered through a business in Tulsa, Okla., founded by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carla Colbert and her husband Terry Colbert, who is pictured as the zombie.

Zombie-based business offers team-building skills

Citizen helps bring unique concept to Tulsa

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carla Colbert and her husband Terry Colbert are bringing a unique team building activity for organizations and businesses to Tulsa.

What started out as a usual day coming home from work for Terry, soon turned into a murder mystery game when his daughter questioned him about a murder.

Turns out she was just playing a game with her brother, which inspired Terry to start writing games with different clues, puzzles and scenarios.

Terry shared the idea of the games with others and soon got a phone call about a similar game being played on an episode of 'The Big Bang Theory.'

"I got ahold of 'The Big Bang Theory' and asked them about the guy who wrote the episode," Terry said. "I flew to Ohio and met with him. We compared notes. Came back here to Tulsa and opened this up."

The Colberts opened The Escape Games: Trapped in a Room with a Zombie July 31, 2015.

"It's been great. Companies book us as team builders. We've seen ONG, McDonalds Corporation, U.S. Cellular," Terry said. "A lot of Fortune 500 companies."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Media Department had the opportunity to take part in the challenge.

"The corporate team building is a big deal. Also, it's kind of the highlight of what we're trying to do is to get business to bring their folks and to see who's the leader and who's the supporter," Carla said. "What kind of roles they play in their business? That can always show up in situations like this."

'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper spoke about his experience of being trapped in room with a zombie and his co-workers.

"It was truly a unique experience and I think what's really special about it is, it's not your typical corporate team building experience, which I think is the angle they were going for," Cosper said.

Ten Mvskoke Media staff members had 60 minutes to work together to find the clues, solve the puzzles, unlock the door and escape the room.

"We're all one department, right? But we have different subsidiaries here at Mvskoke Media and a lot of our staff members don't deal with one another on a day-to-day basis," Cosper said. "Nonetheless, that doesn't downplay the importance of getting to know one another better."

Along with the pressure of trying to solve clues, a zombie is chained to a wall and the chain is released one foot every five minutes, allowing it to reach every individual in the room after 60 minutes.

One session can accommodate up to 12 participants and reservations can be made one month in advance.

Private sessions can also be scheduled if groups want to purchase all of their tickets at one time.

The Escape Games are located at: 4960-C S. 83rd E. Ave in Tulsa.

Show dates and times are available online at: www.icangetout.com and the company Facebook page can be viewed at: www.facebook.com/trappedinaroomwithazombietulsa/?fref=ts.

Mvskoke Youth Services Program holds fun day

Event held to encourage participation

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the inaugural Mvskoke Youth Fun Day Dec. 12, 2015 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, to encourage youth participation in the tribal communities.

"We have young people, Muscogee (Creek) citizens and some other Native Youth from the communities in the jurisdiction out to just have a lot of fun; participate in activities, some old school and engage with each other," MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

The mission of MNYS is, 'to empower Mvskoke youth by connecting to culture, community and resources.'

Representatives from the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics were on hand to encourage participation in the MCN Junior Botball Challenge along with representatives from the MCN Behavioral Health Program.

"We've partnered with the behavioral health program to try to highlight some of the things they're doing around bullying prevention, substance abuse prevention and all the other programs within the Nation that help our young people," Mason said.



Rachel Sourjohn/Courtesy

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the inaugural Mvskoke Youth Fun Day Dec. 12, 2015 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla., to encourage youth participation in the tribal communities.

The event featured activities such as: tug-of-war, a scavenger hunt, basketball, volleyball, stickball, arts and crafts, dancing, karaoke and many others.

"We wanted to do an event for the youth council because they've been going really well this year to try to recruit more people to be involved," Mason said.

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council mission statement is, 'to empower Mvskoke Youth by listening and taking action, to enhance their voice by promoting positive change and informed decisions and to affect all generations and sustain the way of life.'

> **"It's just to have fun… It's just getting to meet people and know that there are peers and people out there that may need help."**
>
> **— Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Speaker Jay Fife**

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jay Fife is a 16-year-old sophomore at Preston High School who serves as the second speaker for MNYC and also serves on all committees under MNYC.

"Our goal was to mimic the National Council," Fife said.

Fife shared his thoughts about the event.

"It's just to have fun… It's just getting to meet people and know that there are peers and people out there that may need help," Fife said. "It's kind of a connecting event."

Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 12-24 are eligible to participate.

For more information, call Mason at: 918-549-2557 or visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/YouthServices/YouthServices.html.

Visit MNYS on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MvskokeYouth/ or on Twitter @MvskokeYouth.

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DeLaune's Corner: The word for today: 'Inspiration'



MNN File Photo

Finding and sharing with the world

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ladies and Gentlemen, my readers, you have no idea how much I have missed you.

I know, I know, it is my fault. The only way to reach you is through my column and without taking anymore of your time, let's get to it.

Do you remember the 'Sesame Street' letter of the day? Well I'm proposing a word for today, inspiration.

What does the word mean?

My friend, Webster (Dictionary), defines it as something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create: a force or influence that inspires someone.

From my other columns, a lot of you know that along with working with my daughter with her hobbies and sports, I am involved with a lot of other stuff. I am a professional boxer and I also help other boxers. I am into fitness, exercising, soccer, bachata and salsa dancing.

They are all very fun but stressful at times to balance. But the overall point is that I was inspired to do them. With my daughter, I was forced to help her…kidding! She threatened me so I had to oblige (laugh).

The point I am trying to make is that inspiration is something that you can get but a majority of the time, it is something that you can give. Stick with me now.

The second part of the Webster definition is, 'a force or influence that inspires someone.'

What I want you to do is be that force. Be that inspiration.

> **"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, 'I'm possible!' "**
>
> **— Award winning actress Audrey Hepburn**

Be that change that someone might need but does not know how to get to it.

You can volunteer, advise, challenge, change, care, take a stand and my favorite, listen. If you have to be that push, be that push. When you are confident in yourself, go and help build that confidence in another.

Whatever it is, however you do it, inspire that person to be better than what they were a year, month, week or even hours ago.

You can see a person light up and their day becomes so much better by doing this. It only takes a few minutes but those few minutes can have amazing effects.

Trust me, it is a wonderful feeling seeing that person that you talked to do something positive, anything positive to making themselves a better person.

Now my favorite part, quote time.

My first quote is from award winning actress, Audrey Hepburn.

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!' "

Another great quote.

"I want to inspire people. I want someone to look at me and say, 'because of you, I didn't give up.' " - Unknown

You know what, I feel like throwing in a Bible verse also.

'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.' - Jeremiah 29:11

My daughter is my inspiration. Listening to her and hearing what she wants to do and accomplish in her life keeps me going because I want to see her do it.

I have one other person that I will not name specifically, who has been and still is a big inspiration to me. I listened to her talk and tell me how she was a shell of herself for a while.

Something pushed to make her better not only for herself, but for her family and friends. Now all I see is a smile and goal to become better than she was the day before.

These two, are my main inspirations. Who are yours? More importantly, the big question is, who will you be an inspiration for?

Much love and I missed you all very much. Happy 2016! Let's inspire and make this year ours!

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION DISTRICT COURT

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EMVPANAYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Country Today' reported that the club did not have permission or endorsement from the Nez Perce to do so.

One club member said the group wanted to honor the Nez Perce for their role in breeding and refining the Appaloosa. Maybe, they should have asked the tribe first?

If they were fake Indians, maybe they should have made fake Appaloosas too? White horses and a couple of buckets of paint might do the trick.

Did you catch actor Leonardo DiCaprio's acceptance speech at the Golden Globe awards this year?

He got the top honor for Best Actor for his performance in the historical drama, 'The Revenant.' After naming a lengthy list of people, DiCaprio squeezed in a thanks to the Native people who are part of the film.

"Lastly, I want to share this award with all the First Nations people represented in this film and all the indigenous communities around the world. It is time that we recognize your history and that we protect your indigenous lands from corporate interests and people that are out there to exploit them. It is time that we heard your voice and protected this planet for future generations," said DiCaprio.

On his website, he wrote: 'There has never been a more critical time to listen to indigenous voices.'

DiCaprio's mention is probably not going to change the world but at least some attention was paid.

Thanks anyway man, nicely spoken. I believe the last time something like this was heard was in 1973, when Sacheen Littlefeather came on stage and declined the Oscar on behalf of Marlon Brando.

Interesting activity from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council lately. A recent former representative was censured and fined for behaviors that were out of line against another representative.

It's good for our citizens to know that their legislature will take action like that when necessary. How about some final actions stemming from the forensic audit?

Well, the political contest is over and new leader has been installed for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. James Floyd has the job of principal chief.

Floyd is settling into office and adjusting the Executive Branch. Heard that he's changed the names of different executive sections from 'Department' to 'Services.' Nice move.

During a Jan. 20 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' Floyd was quite candid in answering all the questions tossed at him. He shared his plans for a number of changes to benefit citizens.

Those include putting tribal staff back on the time clock to check in for work and take breaks. That should prevent abuses and help citizens by having someone there to answer phone questions and help Mvskokvlke when they come to tribal offices.

There will be changes to come and we wish the best for his administration and the MCN. One thing he said was that his administration will be answering tough questions and inquiries from Mvskoke Media. That will make life a lot easier for this crew. Mvto!

Hvtvm Cehecares—I'll see you again.

Coming and Going with Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo/*Muscogee (Creek) citizen*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hensci! My column 'Coming and Going' is starting up again after many requests and a lag time of a few years.

It's been three years since I've moved home, and to be home with my people is a sweet spot in my life, even as we continue to struggle with family violence and other remnants of historical and personal trauma.

Since I've been home, I've gotten married, returned to my family grounds and now take care of a circle of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that has expanded at least twice the size I had before marriage. That is the best. Love expands without limit.

I am still traveling out and around in Indian Country and beyond, hearing stories from all over. Please feel free to contact me with story ideas, people to interview and anything else you think might be of interest to the readers of the paper.

Try joyharjosapulpa@gmail.com. Have a great new year and let's resolve to listen to each other, no matter politics or belief system.

Now, here we go:

What a day, the most incredible sunrise. Drove to Okmulgee to witness the inauguration of the new chief, James R Floyd. He gave a tight inspirational speech and I felt a spirit of vnoketckv (love) moving through the people. We all have to work together--there is no other choice. And we need leaders who understand this. We are all in service.

During the ceremonies, Wotko Long was called to the stage to sing. His singing has a soulful resonance that comes down through many generations of Mvskoke people. I could hear his father, and his father.... Before Wotko Long sang, he mentioned the passing of so many of our citizens this season. It's true. Every few days we've had memorials.

He mentioned that Stephanie Berryhill had passed and that her services were at 2 p.m. in Henryetta. She had fought cancer for quite some time and we all knew she would be leaving here sooner than later. But it was too soon and we didn't want her to go.

She is one of those citizens who gave so much to her family, her community, to all of us. I first met her when she worked at the MCN Communications Department. She always welcomed me when I'd come wandering in from being far away. People at home can be suspicious of those of us who leave home and live away for whatever length of time.

We always had very intense talks about our families, our people and what we wanted to do to help. And lots of laughter. We grew a friendship.

Tonight I am in my room writing because I have to put the grief somewhere.

There is the fresh grief felt by those who of us who knew the beloved person we put to rest today, and the collective grief of the Nation from our forced walk from our homelands to this place where we have made a home together.

I went out for a moment and breathed the light of stars. We will all make it. Together.



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Taiah Sanders, pictured with her family and coaches, signs a letter of intent Jan. 15 at Beggs High School to play softball at Seminole State College.

Citizen signs with Seminole State College

Sanders ready for next level, challenge

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BEGGS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Taiah Sanders has always been a hard worker when it comes to softball. Ever since she began playing, Taiah wanted to do all she could each day to be better.

"I loved this sport my whole life," she said. "I told myself if I worked hard and improved, it is going to pay off for me."

The improvements paid off when Taiah signed Jan. 15 with Seminole State College at her high school.

Taiah explained her reasons for going to SSC.

"It was the coaching staff at Seminole State," she said. "They sold me on everything and made me feel like a part of the team already. I love the environment but it was the coaching staff that did it for me and made me feel at home."

"It has been crazy," she said. "It has been non-stop, but I am loving it a lot."

Taiah's mom, Melissa Sanders has been waiting for this day. Like Taiah, she understood what it took to get to this point and knows that her daughter is ready for what next season will bring.

"This is amazing because a lot of sacrifices were made from her to get to this point," Melissa said. "I can't wait. She done great at this level and I know she is going to do great at the next level."

SSC is a junior college so Taiah will only be attending for two years.

After finishing her time at SSC, Taiah wants to go somewhere that is going to help with her major.

"I want to major in optometry, so that is something I will look at down the road and when it is time," she said. "Until then, my school is Seminole State and I will be focusing on my work there and helping my team."

"I loved this sport my whole life…I told myself if I worked hard and improved it is going to pay off for me."

— Seminole State College signee Taiah Sanders

Taiah mentioned that she had other offers from colleges within Oklahoma and out of state, but SSC was her best choice. She also did not want to be far from family.

Taiah played shortstop for the Beggs Lady Demons during her high school career. The coaches at SSC wanted to try her out at the same position in college but felt another would be a better fit.

"They tried me out at shortstop and at second base," she said. "They loved me in the outfield because of my speed so I feel that I will be playing there."

She said if she had the choice, shortstop and playing in the outfield are where she wants to be.

"That is why I feel I am a good fit for this team," Taiah said. "Those were my top two choices and it is the same with my new coaches."

Taiah said after all these years playing, culminating with her signing at SSC has been a whirlwind for her but she has enjoyed every second of it.

Taiah's high school coach, Ryan Swallow said that SSC is getting a gem with Taiah and knows the Beggs Lady Demons will be missing her next season.

"This is the most rewarding for a coach to see his players get to that next level," Swallow said. "We are going to miss her presence and her everyday leader qualities."

Taiah knows that next season will bring stronger competition so she knows not to get complacent.

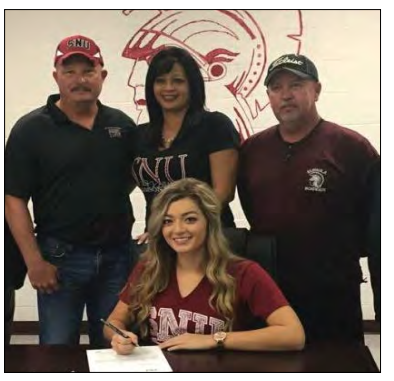
She said she will constantly practice her craft and get better day-by-day.

"Like always, I will be working on my hitting and fielding," Taiah said. "I know the coaches will be instructing me on what else I need to do, but you cannot leave out your basic fundamentals. They are what helped me get to this point."

Taiah's parents are Virgil and Melissa Sanders.

She is of the Hotvle (Wind) Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Citizen signs letter of intent



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Heidi Stafford signed a letter of intent Nov. 11, 2015 to play golf for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla.

Stafford shares how sport influenced her education

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Heidi Stafford signed a letter of intent Nov. 11, 2015 at Eufaula High School to play collegiate level golf for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany.

Stafford is an 18-year-old senior who found her passion for playing golf at a young age.

Stafford started playing golf for her school in the seventh grade and knew it could possibly lead her to an athletic scholarship.

"My dad played golf his whole life… Me and my best friend just decided to play together because we knew we could go to college for it," she said.

As a freshman, Stafford helped the Lady Ironheads win a Class 3A State Championship and was state runner up her sophomore and junior years. She also won three Heartland Conference titles.

"Never give up, even whenever it gets hard. I've personally felt like giving up before because it gets really hard but you can't. That's what makes you better," Stafford said.

Individually, Strafford is three-time All-Heartland Conference, a three-time All-Region honoree and placed fifth at the state championship her junior year.

"My personal best score was a 71," Stafford said.

While in high school, Stafford has also been involved in basketball, and is a member of the National Honor Society and Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

After graduation Stafford plans to get ready for the changes college life brings. She plans to major in psychology.

"I'm wanting to be a psychologist. People kind of interest me the way they do the things they do. I want to help people," Stafford said.

She looks to her parents for guidance and support.

"They have been working hard their whole lives. I've been pretty blessed to have received the scholarship that I did," Stafford said. "I'm doing it for myself but I also want to do if for them to pay them back for motivating me and pushing me to be the best I can be."

Stafford shares how it made her feel knowing that she had finally achieved one of her goals.

"It makes me feel really accomplished because I've been working really hard since the seventh grade. I've always looked up to college golfers so I've really reached my goal," Stafford said.

Stafford is the daughter of Mike and Katie Stafford.

Citizen named Mr. Indian OU



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Turner Hunt was chosen to be a banner carrier for the University of Oklahoma Fall 2015 Arts and Sciences Convocation Dec. 18, 2015 in Norman, Okla.

Hunt discusses academic, military and state legislature background

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Turner Hunt was chosen to be the banner carrier for the University of Oklahoma anthropology department during the Fall 2015 Arts and Sciences Convocation Dec. 18, 2015 at the Lloyd Nobel Center in Norman.

"Each department basically picks amongst the graduates out one of their people who excel and so the anthropology department picked me," Hunt said. "I didn't expect it at all and I think a lot of that had to do with some of the extra curricular activities that I done while I was at the University of Oklahoma."

Hunt graduated OU with a degree in anthropology and plans to return in fall 2016 to pursue a master's degree in archaeology.

Before Hunt pursed higher education, he first chose to serve his country.

"I started a non-traditional student. I came in a little older because I've gone through the Army," he said.

Hunt is an Army combat veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division serving in Iraq and he currently serves a reservist.

While in the Army, Hunt received: two Army Commendation Medals an Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

While at OU, Hunt was a two-time delegate at the Oklahoma State Capitol to lobby state legislators for more higher education funding.

"We grow up looking at the world from typically one or two perspectives. Higher education helps an individual develop new perspectives on their surroundings and environment," he said.

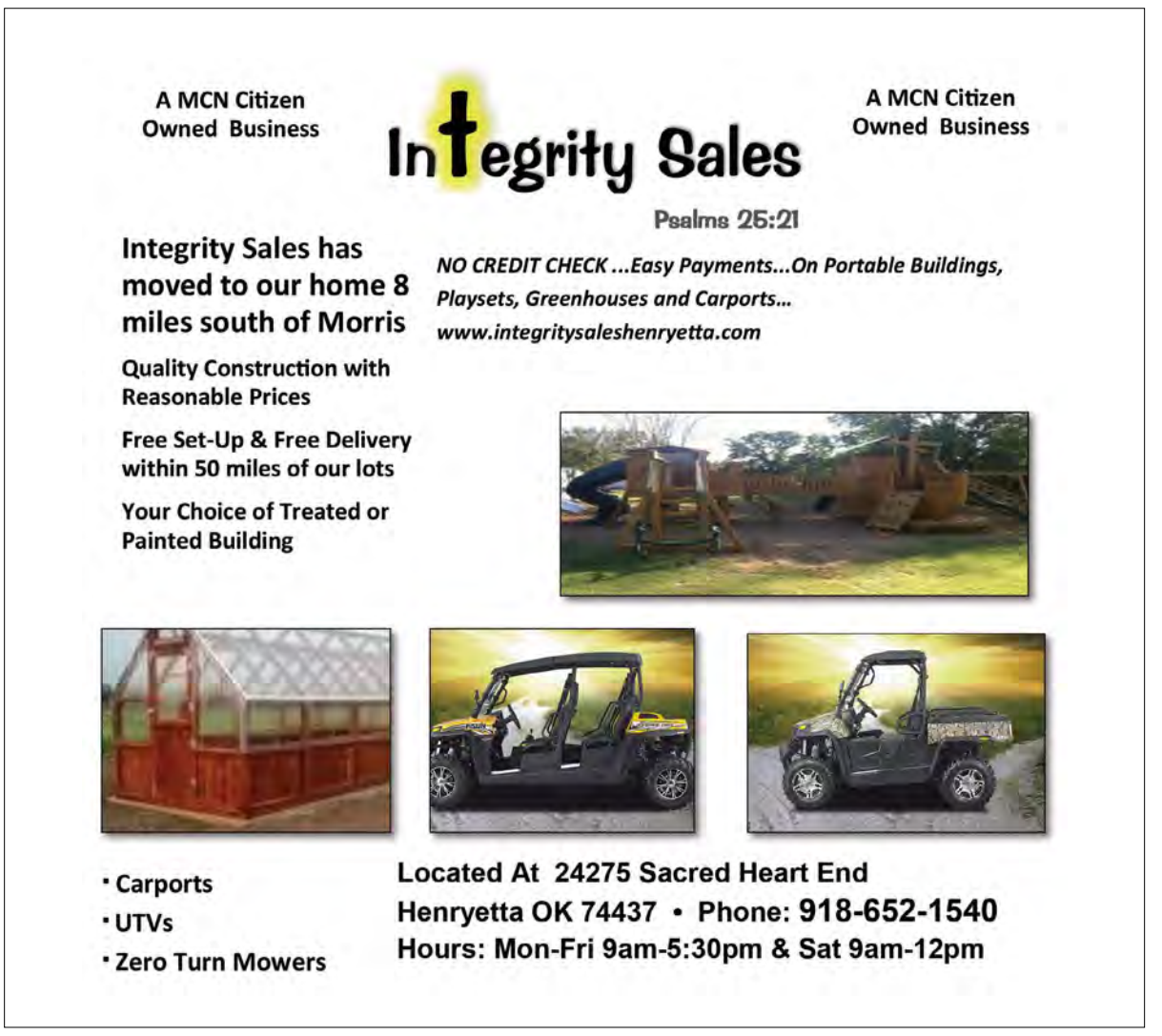
He was also named Mr. Indian OU for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

"My platform for Mr. Indian OU was preservation of botanical knowledge and I spoke often and fondly of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative," Hunt said. "Our songs, dances and clothing are always mentioned in cultural preservation but rarely do you hear of recipes, crop varieties and programs to encourage our historical connection to agriculture."

His future goal after earning his master's degree is to become an MCN employee working with agriculture.

"I've served my country, I've served my family and one of the things I haven't done is serve my tribe," Hunt said.

Hunt is a Skiatook High School graduate, the son of Pamela Turner and the grandson of Mae Cook of Fame.



MFSI receives 40k grant

MFSI/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee based Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is proud to announce that we've received a $40,000 grant from First Nations Development Institute through the Seeds of Native Health program under the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI). This was made possible through the generous support of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

MFSI Executive Director Lizanne Holata and her staff have been going door to door to get interested homeowners in the Cox Addition or as some like to call it 'the homes,' which is the area between North Okmulgee Street and Oklahoma Street known as Yuchi Dr. and Creek Dr.

"We want all to take part in the garden by introducing their children and grandchildren to wholesome veggies grown by their hand. We want the kids to know that there are foods available to them that are actually good for them," Holata said.

Holata outlined the benefits of these activities.

"We want to show you how easy it is to have fresh veggies that will help fuel your body, give you energy and help to maintain your body weight," Holata said. "We are all aware that diabetes is here but we can fight it by eating healthy and exercising by taking care of their gardens."

I know we have been to your door but if you haven't met us yet and want to be a part of an exciting new year call: 918-756-5915.

We are now doing individual visits to help those who want to participate. You will begin to see us at your neighbors Feb. 1, tilling and helping them plant.

Please feel free to stop by and ask questions and set up your date to till your garden. We can accommodate you if you would rather grow flowers.

Restricted land workshop set by MFSI

MFSI/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A free workshop for farmers, ranchers and veterans will be held March 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the College of the Muscogee Nation student center in Okmulgee. The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a presentation from Ms. Janie Hipp (Chickasaw) and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Department on financial management and accessing restricted land.

Ms. Hipp is director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as well as legal counsel and teacher for restricted lands and financial literacy issues at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She has been working with OK Farm Credit officials in providing a financial training curriculum for farmers and ranchers that can be accessed online.

The first ever 'Restricted Lands Guidebook,' written by Ms. Hipp and MFSI Director Lizanne Holata will be distributed. The guidebook will provide step-by-step instructions for accessing restricted lands and detailed information on services offered by MCN Realty. It will include a list of legal aides and attorneys that specialize in legal matters pertaining to restricted lands and will be available online soon at the MFSI website: www.mvskokefood.org.

Please call MFSI to register at: 918-756-5915.

Visit the CMN website at: www.mvsktc.org.

MNN submission Deadlines

Feb. 15 — Feb. 5

March 1 — Feb. 22

March 15 — March 7

April 1 — March 24

April 15 — April 7

First time homebuyer class set for Feb. 20

Housing Department/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Program has scheduled a first time homebuyer education class to help prepare Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in various aspects of buying a home including: discovering if ownership is right for you, the loan process, finding the right house, budgeting and controlling your money, environmental, contract to closing, finalizing the deal and life as a homeowner.

The class is set for 8 a.m., Feb. 20 on the second floor conference room of the Housing building at 2155 N. Wood Dr. in Okmulgee, OK.

Call Jamie Nichols, available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. for pre-enrollment at: 918-549-2570.

Wild onion dinner set for March 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek Methodist Church has set their annual all you can eat wild onion dinner for March 5 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Holdenville Indian Community Center. Adults cost $10 and Children 10 and under cost $5.

OCMA to host Mvskoke language camp

MCN MLPP/*Media Release*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 6-10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association community center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. The camp will include multiple cultural activities and applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) entering the seventh-12th grades and have transportation. For applications, which are due Feb. 29, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.



Wild onion dinner set for Feb. 6

BOWLEGS, Okla. — Kaney Chapel United Methodist Church has set a Wild Onion dinner for Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners are $10 for all you can eat, $5 for children six and under and $10 for carry-out.

For more information call: 580-925-2066.

CMN seeking public comments for accreditation evaluation

CMN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about CMN in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The college will host a visit March 7-8 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation.

Comments regarding the college are due Feb. 7 and may be submitted to: The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL, 60604 or on the commission website at: www.hlcommission.org.

Comments must be in writing and address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.

Citizen business 'Hair by Ness' open

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'Hair by Ness' is now open for haircuts, perms, highlights, waxing and color Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 1713 College Ln., Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

For more information or an appointment call or text: 918-758-9312.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

ETEMVRAHKE — Opposites

PVFNE — Fast
HVLVLATKE -Slow
MAHE — Tall
KOCOKNE — Short
YEKCE — Strong

YEKCEKO — Weak
RAKKE — Big
CUTKE — Small
HONNE — Heavy
TVHOKNE — Light

N	E	Y	T	V	H	O	H	E	E	M	K	O	H	O	O	E	O
E	F	E	K	N	O	K	K	E	N	K	V	K	N	N	P	C	M
O	H	H	K	H	M	H	N	H	O	N	N	E	E	C	N	T	O
H	Y	H	V	O	K	O	H	O	N	N	C	N	E	E	Y	P	E
A	V	F	K	L	C	A	F	V	C	T	F	E	A	N	Y	C	K
C	K	L	E	V	V	O	K	H	N	V	M	E	T	K	E	O	K
E	E	E	V	K	T	L	K	R	P	F	A	C	V	C	K	M	E
A	C	C	V	L	N	M	A	N	A	C	H	F	R	V	C	V	K
C	U	U	V	N	A	O	C	T	E	K	E	E	A	N	E	E	F
N	K	T	E	E	C	T	C	A	K	E	K	E	K	V	K	K	C
Y	U	K	M	E	K	F	K	T	O	K	K	E	H	F	O	Y	C
C	K	E	E	K	H	N	K	E	F	P	K	K	O	E	E	A	R
K	K	Y	Y	E	K	C	E	K	Y	T	V	H	O	K	N	E	T
K	O	K	O	A	F	V	C	K	E	K	Y	E	K	C	E	V	A

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:)
)
A.D., dob 4/12/2001)
) **CASE NO. AD-2015-14**
A minor child.)

2nd NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL FATHER

TO: ANTHONY KARLIN LITTLEBEAR
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

On December 30, 2015, an Application was filed in this Court for a determination that A.D., a minor child born out of wedlock in Oklahoma, on 4/12/2001, to Sanya Dutchy and Anthony Littlebear, be declared eligible for adoption without the consent of the Natural Father and to terminate rights of alleged father, so that the adoption of said child may occur. Said Application is set for hearing on 4th day of March 2016 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courtroom, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, before the Honorable Judge John T. Cripps.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE, WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE, AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT.

YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL COMMUNICATE YOUR DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE THE APPLICATION TO DETERMINE THE CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT AND SHALL COMMUNICATE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING, IN THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT AND IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. YOU ARE ALSO NOTIFIED THAT YOUR DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILD STILL CONTINUES AFTER YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.

Signed and dated this 11th day of January 2016.

John T. Cripps
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Feb. 15, 2016 "Hotvle Hvse" Wind Month

Vol. 46, Issue 4



Five MCN Cabinet positions confirmed by Council — Page 10

Topping out ceremony held for RSC expansion — Page 14

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Floyd delivers first State of the Nation address

Chief covers tribal services, government relations and finance management, development

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd delivered his first State of the Nation address Jan. 30 during the MCN National Council quarterly session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Floyd gave information on tribal finances, economic development, Housing Services, health care, the Nation's projects and more.

Floyd began the address by stating that he and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks have reviewed policy and procedure to make sure tribal entities are in compliance and efficient. He added that an outside program administered a compliance audit to review current practices.

He communicated a need for change in practices to become more financially efficient and reduce dependence on appropriated funds.

Floyd announced that the Executive Branch budget for the current fiscal year has been balanced and work has begun on the FY 2017 budget.

"We are carefully managing vacancies, reducing consultant contracts, improving management of tribal vehicles and reducing traveling costs," Floyd said.

Floyd said the Nation's permanent fund is at $304 million as of Dec. 31, 2015.

"We are working diligently to ensure its continued growth," Floyd said.

As for economic development, Floyd said the Execu-

Nation - 2



MNN File Photo

Chairman of the Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force and Tulsa City Councilor G.T. Bynum voiced a change in the low-water dam portion of the Vision 2025 proposal, with a plan to approach Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other funding partners to finance upkeep on the dams.

Changes proposed to MCN involvement in dam project

Nation to discuss contribution after proposal approved by city vote

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

TULSA, Okla. — A Jan. 27 'KOKI Fox 23 Tulsa' report indicated that the City of Tulsa would rely on a private partnership with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to fund long-term maintenance of two low-water dams proposed as part of the Vision 2025 measure if Jenks and Tulsa voters approve the Vision package in an upcoming April 5 election.

The story cited Tulsa City Councilor and Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force Chairman G.T. Bynum.

"The report there is just not an accurate one and maybe I just didn't explain it clearly to the reporter and I'll take responsibility for that," Bynum said.

A previous plan included MCN providing upfront financing for the project alongside the Vision funds.

"The low-water dam—they're going to have to come up with something there. We just don't have the funds to put in to whatever. I've heard 45 million or something like that. So, there's going to have to be some discussion about that," MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said in a Jan. 20 'Mvskoke Radio' interview.

MCN is considered a stakeholder in the proposal because the dams would provide better water flow near the tribe's Margaritaville-themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in south Tulsa and at the RiverWalk Complex in Jenks.

Bynum said that he had met with Floyd about the project early in the week of Jan. 25. and Floyd issued the following statement Jan. 28.

'The City of Tulsa Mayor and several City Council Members recently reached out to us regarding the VISION 2025 Plan. At this time

Project - 5

Speaker discusses thoughts on economic development, MCN finances

Council releases special appropriation amounts for FY 2015

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During his first term in office, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Tulsa District Rep. Lucian Tiger was elected as speaker during the 2016 MCN Inauguration Ceremony Jan. 2 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Tiger listed his self-employed background and ability to make tough decisions as possibilities for why he was elected speaker.

"But it's definitely an honor to be elected speaker by my fellow representatives," he said. "It's definitely something that is a lot of work, which I enjoy."

Tiger said he started a transport company in 1996 that he still owns. He has also owned and operated a dump truck business and liquor store, and has sold both of those businesses.

Tiger explained that he felt overwhelmed his first week in office, but that it has settled down since.

"I think all the news wore off of everything and everyone is more relaxed and understands what they expect of me and I expect of them," he said. "I believe the transition is going very well."

The Council provided the 'Muscogee Nation News' with a financial report showing the special appropriations for fiscal year 2015 (see bottom of page two).

The Council legislated $14.128 million in FY 2015 for special appropriations. These appropriations do not include any monies for MCN

Speaker - 2

Onefire releases 2015 portfolio report, 2016 projections

Board member, CEO discuss investments

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

JENKS, Okla. — Created through Muscogee (Creek) Nation legislation in 2013, Onefire Holding Company LLC was aimed at providing a revenue source for MCN outside of gaming.

"The fear is that one day, something may change the gaming landscape. You know, it could be political in nature, it could be socioeconomic, but if that were to happen, and for the tribe's sake we hope it never happens, but if it were to happen, we feel like it is necessary… to build up other sources of revenue for the tribe," Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Onefire Board Chairman Sean Kouplen said.

Kouplen said this strategy is common.

"And again, it's not unprecedented. We have seen in the other large four

Onefire - 4

Director shares TERO details, RSC involvement

Overacker outlines personal, office's goals and successes

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

TULSA, Okla. — As defined by its establishing legislation, the purpose of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office is to encourage employment of Muscogee (Creek) citizens and citizens of other federally recognized tribes.

MCN TERO Director John Overacker outlined how his office has worked to fulfill this during construction on the Margaritaville-themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

"I came in after the project was actually started and the biggest thing we're trying to do is place our citizens on this project," he said.

Overacker said that

TERO - 5



Amanda Rultand/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd gives his first State of the Nation address Jan. 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Nation

Continued from page 1

tive Branch and the Council have met with all MCN business enterprises to understand and improve their income.

MCN Human Resources Management Services reported that the Nation employs 1,122 people, of which 871 are Muscogee (Creek), 148 are citizens of other tribes and 174 are non-Native.

The Employment and Training Department has outlined plans to expand the current Tribal Construction and Housing Services Apprenticeship Program to include high school students from vocational schools for summer training.

Floyd said MCN is one of the first tribes in the country to receive a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs grant to help homeless veterans secure permanent housing.

He said construction continues on the Okemah hospital and Okmulgee emergency room, both of which should be completed sometime this year.

Floyd said a lead benefits advisor position has been created for the MCN Department of Health to train staff in assisting patients who apply for Social Security benefits and state and federal insurance programs.

"This will help utilize other funding sources to pay health care costs, save tribal funds and increase third party revenue," Floyd said.

He said an oversight committee has been established for Fountain Head Creek Golf Course in Eufaula to deal with fee-to-trust issues and development of the property.

According to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation website, 'When fee lands are returned to trust, Indian nations and people begin to eliminate the checkerboard pattern of trust and fee lands and regain control of lands on the reservation. Trust lands are protected from sale or default to non- Indians, are free from county taxation and are within tribal jurisdiction.'

Also, Floyd said the MCN Interior Affairs Department plans to participate in the U.S. Department of the Interior Land Buy-Back Program.

According to the Native American Rights Fund website, the program puts $1.9 billion in a Trust Land Consolidation Fund to buy highly fractionated land, meaning multiple to many owners of one piece of land, for tribes from individuals willing to sell their land to their tribes.

Floyd said he has met with Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin in an effort to work together and maintain tribal sovereignty.

"Our tribal leaders continue to meet with federal and state lawmakers and local government leaders to ensure our needs are considered in laws, regulations and policies," Floyd said.

Floyd said he and Hicks believe that open communication with Mvskoke church and ceremonial leaders is important.

"Our administration seeks their guidance to ensure our programs and services reflect our religious and cultural values," Floyd said.

In closing, Floyd asked for the commitment of citizens and promised the full commitment of his administration in working to reach goals.

"With this mutual commitment, I see a prosperous future for our Nation in the next four years and for generations to come," Floyd said.

Speaker

Continued from page 1

programs and departments.

The funds for payment were derived from various MCN accounts.

Each individual piece of legislation will show the exact account funds were paid out of.

The special appropriations include monies given to citizens for educational and extra-curricular purposes, funds given to MCN communities and donations to political candidates and organizations such as the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative.

The total figure includes a $11.6 million appropriation to the MCN-owned Onefire Holding Company LLC, $658,052 for the purchase of a property in Morris and renovations to make it ADA compliant and $177,408 to purchase a new marquee for the MCN Tribal Complex.

"With the special appropriations, last year there were a couple of large investments for the Nation as a whole that were considered special appropriations that are not going to be there on an annual basis," Tiger said.

NCA 16-009 was passed by the Council Jan. 30, and amends the requirements for special appropriations by the Council for educational and extra-curricular activities.

"Also, the appropriations as a whole, yes, we are definitely looking at those because the last session, I believe we all did really well with trying to cut back on the appropriations," Tiger said. "Especially the larger appropriations… so yes, we are definitely looking at those and trying to save money as much as possible."

In the FY 2016 budget, Tiger said the Council has cut their travel expenses line item from $50,000 to $35,000.

"And the $35,000 still seems like a large dollar amount, but when you have 16 representatives traveling on that, you know, it's not that significant of an amount," Tiger said. "So we're all trying to work in many different areas to cut back on our spending."

The BFJ Committee met Jan. 21 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, and the agenda included reports from the MCN Gaming Operations Authority Board, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, Muscogee International and Onefire.

"We went into executive session… and the reason we did that is because those deal with the Nation's financials," Tiger said. "And that's definitely something that we don't want out to everyone, but if you're a Creek citizen, you're more than welcome to stay."

Mvskoke Media cannot report information discussed during Council executive sessions.

Reports from the Nation's economic development and gaming entities are given to the BFJ committee on a quarterly basis.

Meeting agendas often containing drafts of the full legislation addressed when downloaded, are posted to the Council's website at: www.mcnnc.com.

Tiger also discussed bringing money back to the Nation through economic development.

"It's extremely important that our citizens and employees understand that changes cannot be made over night… it takes a long time to get the revenue coming in that you're expecting," he said.

Tiger said he would like to see the economic development entities publish reports for citizens, as long as the published information is not detrimental to their business.



Amanda Rutland/MNN
Lucian Tiger was sworn in Jan. 2 as the 19th Session Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council speaker during the 2016 MCN Inauguration Ceremony at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

MCN National Council 18th Session appropriations 2014-2015

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	
Extra-Curricular	$24,793.35
Education	$24,961.59
Communities	$920,342.40
Churches & Ceremonial Grounds	$63,171.00
Health	$5,000.00
Welfare	$875.00
Other*	$12,762,260.00
Total	**$13,801,403.34**
DONATIONS	
Organizations	$260,980.43
Schools	$36,000.00
Political Candidate	$6,000.00
Charities	$13,499.99
Other	$10,500.00
Total	**$326,980.42**

***Other in Special Appropriations includes the following:**

$658,052.00	Purchased property in Morris, OK and paid for improvements to property facility to make ADA compliant
$70,000.00	Inter-Tribal Expenses
$177,408.00	Paid for MCN Complex Marquee
$11,661,800.00	Funds appropriated to OneFire to pay for the construction of Flying Tee
$170,000.00	Partnership with New Tech Academy at Alice Robertson Junior High in Muskogee, OK
$25,000.00	NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) membership fees

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

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The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call 918 - 732 - 7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov.

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Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association



MNN File Photo

Del Beaver was elected as Seat A representative for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Okmulgee District in the Nov. 2, 2015 MCN general election.

New Council representative excited about term

Beaver explains decision to run

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens elected three new representatives to the 16-person MCN National Council last November including Okmulgee District Seat A Rep. Del Beaver.

He spoke about the campaign trail and how he felt when he won.

"I was so nervous going into it because you just don't know," Del said. "When it was finally said and done, I was happy and relieved."

Del said he felt the calling to run from a higher power.

"I became a minister about a year-and-a-half ago," he said. "I gave my life to the Lord about four years ago. It was a decision and direction that the Lord put me on."

Del said he presented this calling to his kin.

"I talked to my family and told them that this was something that I needed to do," he said. "To me it made sense to pursue this avenue."

Del's last position as an MCN employee was MCN Environmental Services manager and he explained how his tenure prepared him for Council.

"We did not know what the call was on the other side but our job was to fix it," he said. "I feel that it will be similar to that. Whenever my phone rings, I don't know what the problem is but it is my job to fix it."

Del addressed conflict of interest concerns since his wife Rhonda Beaver is an MCN Department of Health employee.

"I did as far as being put on certain committees," he said. "I am on the LNC committee (Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation). I told them I don't think I can be on HEW (Health, Education and Welfare) because of my wife."

Del also said that MCNNC has legal counsel and he will consult with them if possible conflicts arise while voting.

Del comes from a family of MCN leaders. His late father, R. Perry Beaver was an MCN principal chief and his uncle Pete Beaver is the Council Muskogee District Seat A representative.

Del said he is not worried about disagreeing with his uncle on certain issues.

"It is not a big deal to us," he said. "I don't agree with everything and I don't expect people to agree with my view. We are professionals, that is, the first and main thing is that we are professionals."

He conveyed a 'business is business' attitude towards this.

"I'm not going to hold grudges. That is not good or good for the tribe," Del said. "You don't move forward when you hold grudges."

Del made a promise to the citizens for his time with the Council.

"I am going to work hard in whatever it may be," Del said. "In a manner that you can be proud of."

Rhonda and Del have three children together. His tribal town is New Tulsa and he is a member of New Beginnings Baptist Church in Henryetta.

His Council phone number is: 918-758-5206.

"I don't agree with everything and I don't expect people to agree with my view. We are professionals, that is, the first and main thing is that we are professionals."

— MCN National Council Rep. Del Beaver

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council can office can be reached at: 918-758-1410 and the hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The address is P.O. Box 158, Hwy. 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee OK, 74447 and the website is: www.mcnnc.com.

New representative touts attitude of service



MNN File Photo

Randall Hicks was elected as Seat A representative for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Okfuskee District in the Nov. 2, 2015 MCN general election.

Hicks shares plan to learn from sitting officials

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For as long as he can remember, Randall Hicks said he has wanted to be a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative.

"It has always been in my heart to give back to Creek Nation. There are some things that I want to see prosper," Hicks said.

His dream became reality after results from the Nov. 2, 2015 general election were finalized and he won Seat A of the Okfuskee District.

"After the tallies came in, it was a feeling that I have achieved one of my goals," Hicks said. "I had to let it all soak in."

Hicks said he grew up in the Mason area near Okemah.

"I grew up in Mason and went to school here," he said. "I am now on the school board here at Mason. I lived elsewhere but some things that led me back home."

Hicks said he wants the MCN to continue being an example for other tribes.

"Everybody looked at Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the model and wanted to be that," he said.

Hicks said the victory did not hit him until the inauguration.

"I got butterflies in my stomach and goose bumps," he said.

Hicks explained why he waited until the 19th Council session election to run.

"I wanted to do it in the past years but never did," he said. "Now this time I felt that the time was right. I felt God was telling me it was my time."

Hicks said he plans to learn from the sitting representatives.

"I have been learning as I go and I know that it is a process to take it all in," Hicks said. "It will not happen overnight but I am learning."

He believes that learning furthers the overall goal of the Council.

"We have rules and regulations along with our policies and procedures and it is to help our citizens and our Nation and make it better," Hicks said.

Hicks feels his previous jobs have readied him for the Council.

"I think my work experience was a big help in getting ready for the National Council," he said. "I have a background in different areas and all those have helped prepare me for my new tasks."

Hicks has had several tribal positions and has a background in areas such as education, gaming and community service.

He voiced his intention to serve citizens near and abroad.

"I look forward to helping and being able to assist not only the people in our jurisdiction but outside of it too," Hicks said.

Hicks expressed his gratitude for his new position.

"I want to thank you for electing me," Hicks said. "My goal is to serve and help as many citizens as I can."

Hicks is of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan and Eufauluce Tribal Town.

His Council phone number is: 918-758-5204.

Rufus Scott elected to Tukvpvtce District



MNN File Photo

Rufus Scott was elected as Seat A representative for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Tukvpvtce District in the Nov. 2, 2015 MCN general election.

Representative reflects on first campaign, looks ahead to term

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Rufus Scott was elected as Seat A representative for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Tukvpvtce District in the Nov. 2, 2015 MCN general election.

Scott was born and raised in Wetumka and graduated from Wetumka High School in 1977.

Afterwards, Scott served in the U.S. military and then started a life in Alabama.

He eventually moved back to Oklahoma, where he began working as a security guard before pursuing a career as a MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police officer.

"I have a passion for helping people. That's one of the reasons I wanted to be a lighthorseman, is to help our citizens," Scott said.

After years of working as a lighthorseman, Scott said he was approached by citizens who asked him to run for Council, an idea he then ran by his wife.

"Although I love my job as Lighthorse, it was just getting harder to do because of the physical training and so I thought I can still assist and help our citizens just in a different capacity," he said.

From there, Scott said he began to campaign by traveling all over the MCN jurisdiction and from California to Tennessee.

"A lot of people knew me because I was a lighthorseman… I think being a lighthorseman really helped me but besides that, just getting out and talking to people and talking to the public and visiting with people," Scott said.

Scott shared his feelings about the results after his time on the campaign trail.

"It was a relief because like I said, it was a lot of work," he said. "My main goal is for everybody, for all the citizens to be treated fair and equally."

Scott said he was ready to get into office and go to work.

"I'm compassionate with people and I listen. I think that's one of the important things is listening to people; listening to their concerns," he said.

Scott serves on the Health, Education and Welfare; Fact Finding; and Mound Building Oversight committees.

"My main focus is to help all citizens, not just in my district but for the whole Nation," Scott said. "The Nation voted at large and I think although we're assigned to a district, we're all representatives for the whole Nation."

Scott has been married to his wife Judith for 27 years, has two children and two grandchildren. He is of the Wind Clan as well as the Alabama Tribal Town and Ceremonial Ground.

His Council phone number is: 918-758-5203.

Onefire

Continued from page 1

civilized tribes here in Oklahoma have done the exact same thing," he said.

Creation

Outside of Oklahoma, tribes have organized their own versions of business entities as sources of economic development.

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas operates ACT Holdings LLC and POWTEC Holding Company LLC in Alaska is owned by the Craig Tribal Association and the Organized Village of Kasaan.

Ho-Chunk Inc. was formed in 1994 by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and employs 1000 individuals with over 30 subsidiaries, operations in 10 states and four foreign countries. The company provides construction and professional services as well as business and consumer products.

According to their 2014 annual report, Ho-Chunk Inc. brought in $10.8 million in profits.

"The Creek Nation receives a lot of accolades nationwide for the structure of Onefire, and Onefire is its own standalone holding company. Which really just means it's a corporate shell if you will, that can own other assets and can own other companies," Kouplen said.

Kouplen said that having Onefire helps MCN move more quickly in business decisions.

"Prior to Onefire coming along, the Creek Nation was presented with investment opportunities all the time and it was always going to a different person and going through a different route… Everything can't go through the Council, they already have so much to do," he said.

Kouplen said that the board has brought in a team that is experienced in business analysis to evaluate opportunities that have low risk, but high potential.

He explained that the board is made up of four members, three of which are Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"We are all very passionate about the Creek Nation," Kouplen said. "We are not getting rich doing this… None of us personally have any investment in any of the things that we're doing, but we're all emotionally invested heavily."

Funding

The MCN National Council passed NCA 13-291, appropriating $7.3 million to Onefire every year for three years.

According to Onefire CEO Mike Payne, Onefire received their last installment from MCN in December 2015, which will be utilized for new investments in the coming year.

"So far in approximately two-and-a-half years of Onefire, we've invested about half of those funds in various business opportunities ranging in several different industries from majority interest to minority interest, lots of different investment vehicles that provide us the ability to build the portfolio that's going to sustain Onefire," Payne said.

Kouplen explained how Onefire has used the distributions from MCN.

"So, what we do is we take our allocated dollars, and we've looked at over 150 investment opportunities in the last two, two-and-a-half years," he said. "We have chosen to participate in about 10 of those and we feel like those 10 will give us the best opportunity to again create jobs and create wealth for the tribe."

Kouplen said Onefire should not need to approach MCN for additional funds unless, "great opportunities come our way that we didn't have the capital to take advantage of."

At that point, the Council would make a decision on whether or not to appropriate funds on a case-by-case basis.

Financials

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested financial information for 2015 from Onefire. Based on the information provided, the Onefire investment portfolio is divided into three types: debt investment, equity investment and equity preferred investment.

The ***debt investment portion*** consists of loans to various businesses.

Onefire has invested $4.634 million into this category. As of Dec. 31, 2015, Onefire has received $1.02 million in loan payments that include principal and interest. The total outstanding loan balance for the same period was $3.97 million.

Onefire received an 8 percent yield on the debt investment portion of their portfolio for 2015. According to www.investopedia.com, yield is defined as the income return on the investment, such as the interest paid through the business loan category.

For the ***debt investment*** portion of the portfolio, Onefire is estimating a $310,311 yield for 2016 as well as a principal reduction of the current outstanding loan balances.

2015 Onefire Debt Investment Portfolio		
Beginning Investment	Current Loan Balances	Payments Received (P&I)
$4,634,648.00	$3,970,246.92	$1,020,711.60

The ***equity investment*** portion consists of pure investments (percent ownership of companies) made into various businesses.

Onefire has invested $3.294 million into this category. The current estimated value of holdings in this category is $3.847 million, for a yield of 17 percent. Onefire estimates that investments in this category will reach $6.16 million in 2016 by investing available funds into new investment opportunities.

2015 Onefire Equity Investment Portfolio	
Beginning Investment	Current Estimated Value
$3,294,940	$3,847,398.50

The ***equity preferred investment*** portion of the Onefire portfolio consists of investments into businesses that will also provide annual payments (yield) back to Onefire while Onefire holds an equity position in the company.

2015 Onefire Equity Preferred Investment Portfolio	
Beginning Investment	Current Estimated Value
$6,000,000.00	$6,075,000.00

For example, the RiverWalk Complex will yield rent payments on leases on Onefire investments. Onefire has invested $6 million into this portion of the portfolio. The current estimated value of the holdings is $6.075 million.

Onefire estimates the yield for 2016 for this portion of the portfolio will be $1.138 million.

Onefire estimates that the ***total*** Onefire portfolio value for 2015 was $23.913 million with a return of 6.3 percent. Onefire is projecting a $24.75 million total portfolio value for 2016. This will be a 10 percent increase in the portfolio value from the $22.5 million that was Onefire's base investment capital in 2015, with a 6.1 percent income yield.

Onefire projects a 12 percent return on all investments (income and equity value) for 2016 after Onefire operating expenses are paid.

"I think we feel really good about where the portfolio is… We have a portfolio that in its third year, is going to be profitable and it's going to be self-sustaining. We have capital available today to invest.

"So, we're really looking to expand the portfolio now is to continue a mix of income and growth investments that will solidify our ability to be able to continue to operate for a long time. And we're looking now in our new investments to really enhance our existing portfolio and just the different business and service functions of the Nation," Payne said.

Kouplen said Onefire will be profitable and self-sustaining by the end of the 2016 calendar year.

"As a business owner myself, what you find is that very rarely can you start a business from scratch and have it turn profitable within three years. It's just very rare. It just takes time to build up mass and get to a point to where you have the volume of sales or revenue to make a profit," he said. "We will do that in our third year, which is very unusual."

According to previous 'MNN' reports, the percentages of revenue Onefire will give back to the tribe will be negotiated with the Council this year.

Process

Payne explained the process for analyzing an investment opportunity.

"We look for, is it a good profitable business investment… We look at, does it provide employment opportunities for citizens of the Nation; does it provide opportunities in certain regions of the Nation," he said.

Payne said that the Council has requested to see an increase in economic development south of Interstate 40 in the MCN jurisdiction.

"We also look at, are there other values to our portfolio, to the tribe, maybe to other pieces of the tribe where we could bring products and services that perhaps the tribe is currently using that would help the tribe save money on those things, or maybe services to citizens," Payne said.

Kouplen said that with every investment decision, Onefire considers how it will benefit MCN.

"I think it's very important to remember we are the Creek Nation… We want them to look at our participation and look at our performance and see that we are doing our best to be very independent and make quality decisions on their behalf," he said. "We understand it's not our resources, it's the resources of the Creek people."

Council Speaker Lucian Tiger said he believes there has been a lot of pressure for Onefire to be profitable quickly.

"So, I see why they are doing some of the business ventures that they're going into is because they want to try to give a quick turnaround on some money to show a positive income," Tiger said.

Reporting

Kouplen explained that some Onefire reports cannot be made public.

"We have to keep certain elements of business deals confidential because a lot of times we're under non-disclosure agreements. But as far as the operations, we present to the Council and to their committees on a quarterly basis, how we're doing.

"We want to be very cooperative with the Council and the members of the Creek Nation. Our goal is to become the premier business entity for a tribe in our state and ultimately in our nation. We are behind some of the other tribes in the state. They've been doing this for decades, but we're very confident we're going to get there," Kouplen said.

Onefire gave a financial report to the Council Jan. 21 during the Council's Business, Finance and Justice Committee session.

"We went into executive session… and the reason we did that is because those deal with the Nation's financials," Tiger said. "And that's definitely something that we don't want to everyone, but if you're a Creek citizen, you're more than welcome to stay."

Mvskoke Media is unable to report items discussed in executive session.

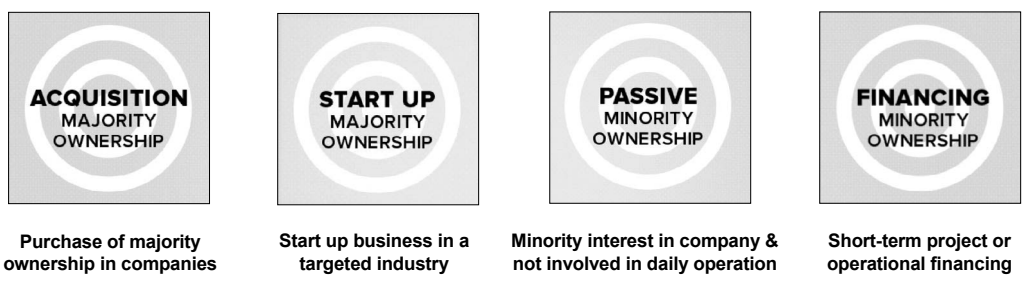
Tiger said citizens were able to ask questions and he thought the session went well.

"There wasn't any bantering through questions. It was just good legitimate business questions and I think it set their mind at ease and helped them understand the process of what went on…" Tiger said.

Onefire submits reports to the Council every quarter during the BFJ session. Meeting agendas are available at the Council website: www.mcnnc.com.

For more information about Onefire, call: 918-518-6701, or visit: www.onefireholding.com.

Investment targets from the Onefire website



Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we are waiting for the City of Tulsa to act and for the voters of the City to decide.

'Once the election results are certain, any and all decisions for the Tulsa 2025 plan will not be made without this review and decisions jointly by this office and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approval.'

Bynum agreed with this timetable, stating that funding would have to be secured for the project by Tulsa and Jenks voters before approaching MCN.

"We'd agreed in our meeting earlier in the week that, that would be an important first step before we ask the government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Bynum said. "It would be ridiculous to ask them to commit funds to something that we don't know we have the funds for either."

The 'Fox 23' report included an interview with U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (OK) who had advised city leaders that lack of funding for long-term maintenance of the existing Zink Dam built under his tenure as Tulsa mayor should be avoided in this project.

A $24.8 million endowment to cover this was cut out of the Vision proposal, leading to the inquiry for private funding.

Bynum said the lack of secured financing for maintenance of the dam does not affect the Vision proposal.

"It doesn't other than obviously, if the vote passes in Tulsa and it doesn't pass in Jenks, then there is no dam," Bynum said. "If it passes in Jenks but dosen't pass in Tulsa, then there is no dam. The overall proposal is not affected by it."

MCN National Council Business Finance and Justice Committee Chairman Robert Hufft confirmed that such a proposal would have to be approved by BFJ and that he had not heard about it. Hufft, who is a Council representative for the Tulsa District, said that he had spoken with former Jenks Mayor and consultant for the river project under the previous MCN administration, Vic Vreeland about the river dams around the week of Jan. 11.

Hufft said he met with Vreeland, along with the other Tulsa District representative, MCN Council Speaker Lucian Tiger and the current Jenks Mayor Kelly Dunkerley, over lunch to discuss developments in their area when the dam project came up.

"I said, 'We have too many things that we have to take care of our people and I can't justify myself giving any kind of money along those lines,' " Hufft said. "That's the extent of any kind of talk I've ever had with them about it."

The 'Muscogee Nation News' asked Vreeland Jan. 28 if he had been involved in the project since he was interviewed for an MNN piece on it published Dec. 3, 2015 and he said that he had not and could not provide an update.

"I have no knowledge," he said.

The previous story ran on page one of the MNN Dec. 15, 2015 edition, which can be view at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2015/20151215.pdf.

The Vision 2025 proposal was approved by voters Sept. 9, 2003 to pass a one-penny sales tax increase for 13 years in Tulsa County, 'to grow economic and community infrastructure for future generations' according to the project website.

The upcoming vote in the spring would renew funding for Vision 2025.

According to the 'Tulsa World,' a final $884.1 million Vision tax renewal package was approved by the Tulsa City Council Jan. 28, which alongside the low-water dams, would fund public safety measures such as the addition of new police officers and firefighters, transportation improvements such as road construction as well as improvements to public attractions.

NOTICE
SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
UPON P.A. MCGUIRE, RESPONDENT

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

Name	Last Known Address
P. A. MCGUIRE	411630 E. 1130 Rd., Eufaula, OK. 74432

You are hereby notified that you have been sued by the Petitioner, above named, in the above entitled Court, and you must answer the Petition of the Petitioner on file in the above styled and numbered cause on or before the 16 day of March, 2016, Within the same time, a copy of your answer must be delivered or mailed to the attorney for the Petitioner. Unless you answer the petition within the time stated, judgment will be rendered against you with costs of the action.

COMES NOW the Petitioner, Pursuant to M(C)NCA Title 6, § 1-103, M(C)NCA Title 6, § 1-301, Thomas R. McIntosh and for his cause to establish paternity and custody of his son, E.R. McIntosh. Petitioner is a fit and proper person to have sole custody of the parties' minor child, subject to the Respondent's right of reasonable visitation.

The Respondent should be ordered to pay child support, pay a proportionate share of medical and health insurance coverage on behalf of the child, pay a proportionate share of all reasonable and necessary uninsured medical expenses incurred on behalf of the child, pay a proportionate share of all child care expenses incurred on behalf of the minor child, all in accordance with the Oklahoma Child Support Guidelines.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Petitioner prays that the court make a judicial determination of Petitioner's paternity to the minor child, E.R. McIntosh, that sole custody of the child be granted to the Petitioner, awarding Respondent visitation, ordering Respondent to pay child support, ordering Respondent to pay a proportionate share of medical insurance on behalf of the child and to pay a proportionate share of the uninsured medical expenses incurred on behalf of the child, ordering Respondent to pay a proportionate share of the child care expenses incurred on behalf of the child, and for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

2-2-16
Dated

Jessie Motes
Clerk of the District Court
Of The Muskogee (Creek) Nation

PETITIONERS ATTORNEY

Bruce A. Spence, OBA# 16310
Spence Law Office



Native News Today

David Collins, owner of Tribal Employment Rights Office certified company, Fenix Construction, speaks with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd Jan. 18 during a private tour of the Margaritaville-themed expansion project at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla. Collins details his company's involvement in the project while MCN TERO Director John Overacker looks over the structure in the background.

TERO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there have been around 90 Muscogee (Creek) and 155 other Native American citizens placed on the project since April 2015.

A fact sheet provided by RSC Sept. 22, 2015 when the project reached the halfway mark stated that the site had 350 workers daily.

An MCN committee comprised of tribal employees and officials certifies businesses as Indian-owned and operated under criteria in the TERO legislation. Overacker explained that the committee also provides services for the businesses once they are certified.

"…they may not exactly know what they need to do or where to bid and we do have the website where that is posted," Overacker said. "We also work with businesses to think outside the box, see what they can actually bid on and what they want to do."

Once certified, the office places these organizations on a list to be drawn on for projects.

"And also, we actually look at non-TERO vendors who have larger contacts with us and to see if our smaller TERO vendors fit to get a portion of that contract," Overacker said. "So our TERO vendors can grow and learn how to work on big projects."

TERO certified company Fenix Construction Group, did subcontract work for Manhattan/Redstone on the RSC project, providing the metal framework on all 29 floors.

"If not for TERO, my company wouldn't be here right now," Fenix owner David Collins said. "All we needed was an opportunity to show what we can do and we're doing just that."

TERO certified organizations are required to give hiring preference to qualified citizens who apply for vacant positions and also preference to existing employees who apply for promotional opportunities.

In return, the organizations are given preference when bidding against other entities to do business with MCN.

Collins hopes to build on the reputation his company has established with the RSC project by securing further work on it.

"We're going for a scope called special installations," Collins said. "What that means is all the handicap rails, all the handicap grab bars in the bathrooms, any kind of bathroom partition, we want that too."

Along with the list of certified organizations, TERO maintains a job bank, where citizens can be matched up with employers based on their skillset and experience.

"…so when a vendor does call and says, 'hey I need a plumber,' whether it's in Okemah, Henryetta or River Spirit, we can look at that list and find someone local to see if we have people who match up with those skills," Overacker said.

> **"That is the great thing about being a tribe and a sovereign Nation is enacting your own laws and then enforcing them. It's not an equal playing field; our people have a preference to come and work here."**
>
> **— MCN TERO Director John Overacker**

Overacker commented on the state of the available tribal workforce for the RSC project moving forward.

"It's a mess. The problem we have right now is we have enough general laborers out here," he said.

He said that a more skilled labor is needed.

"Now we're getting to the part of the project where we're going to need electricians, electrical apprentices, HVAC, journeyman, people who have licenses or apprentices for that as well as plumbers and plumbing apprentices…" Overacker said.

Overacker has collaborated with the MCN Tribal Construction Department Apprenticeship Program to try and address this need.

"This summer I hosted a metal stud, drywall… class that we had," he said. "We actually had that at the Indian Capital Vo-Tech in Muskogee and at the Wes Watkins Technology Center in Wetumka, which some of the apprentice people came to that."

Overacker is looking even farther ahead to the end of this year when the project is set for completion.

"The biggest goal coming up is, when River Spirit is done, they're going to open the hotel, the restaurants, so my biggest thing now is meeting with River Spirit staff and the hotel side because we need to train some of our citizens," he said. "If they want cooks, banquet servers, security guards, the different jobs that are going to open up here and we'll look at having trainings in Okmulgee, Tulsa, Muskogee that are close to this area…"

Overacker said his list of certified businesses is sound but he would like to make progress in other aspects of that area.

"But we need to focus on the businesses that want to come to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and be partners with us," he said. "What I mean by partners is not just make money off of the tribe but give back. Whether it's to hire citizens, to train our citizens…"

He believes that the TERO mission to further tribal employment is an exercise in self-determination.

"That is the great thing about being a tribe and a sovereign Nation is enacting your own laws and then enforcing them," Overacker said. "It's not an equal playing field; our people have a preference to come and work here."

Overacker said that he has enhanced enforcement during his tenure.

"There were a lot of compliance issues where some of compliance officers were not able to lean back and rely on the TERO manager to make the decisions for compliance," he said.

Also, employees working for a TERO-certified entity may file a complaint with the office when they feel they have been discriminated against or if they see other compliance violations.

"Sometimes we have different things we have to make a decision on who's right," Overacker said. "If a Native American files a complaint with TERO at one of our job sites, it's our obligation through the law, we have to investigate that."

TERO advocates for prospective employees and vendors as well.

Those given projects that fall under TERO oversight may be asked to justify when they choose not to give a bid, job or promotion based on the preference requirements.

"If the reasons they give aren't good for not hiring someone, we can actually call that company and on behalf of our citizen, say why they didn't get hired," Overacker said.

For more information about TERO including the job bank and list of vendors visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Tero/tero.html or call: 918-549-2964.

Council approves full FY 2016 budget during session

Five cabinet member nominations approved

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Jan. 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• **NCR 16-001 A resolution of the MCN National Council approving the legal services agreement between the Council and Fletcher Law PLLC. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The Council requires their own legal counsel separate from that offered by various other legal entities qualified to practice at MCN.

This legislation aimed to reconfirm Zeke Fletcher as their attorney.

As a National Council resolution, this bill does not require authorization by the principal chief.

• **TR 16-002 Approving a reproduction policy for the MCN Cultural Center and Archives. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

MCN laws allow the Nation to regulate the use of its intellectual property.

The MCN Cultural Center and Archives manage photographic material and receive frequent inquiries about reproducing them, leading to the need to adopt a reproduction policy, which would be established by this legislation.

The policy includes a pricing process, which is based on the type of request and whether or not the person requesting reproduction is a tribal citizen.

• **TR 16-003 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act plan of action with the Pea Ridge National Military Park for the treatment and disposition of Native American human skeletal remains, associated funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony and sacred objects discovered at the Pea Ridge National Military Park. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Pea Ridge has developed a plan of action under NAGPRA that describes their procedures for the treatment and disposition of Native American artifacts and remains they will handle while conducting an archeological inventory of Ruddick's Field at their park.

The Council must approve the plan of action.

• **TR 16-004 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the City of Eufaula for the Eufaula walking trail project. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The walking trail is planned for construction along Lakeshore Drive.

Under the agreement, MCN will conduct preconstruction plans, award the contract for work, monitor and inspect the work and fund all reasonable and agreed upon costs out of the estimated $201,960 for the project from Federal Highway Administration funding.

Eufaula will be responsible for right-of-ways through privately owned properties and temporary construction easements for the project as well as maintenance and repair after it is finished.

• **TR 16-005 Confirming the nomination of Neenah Tiger to serve as secretary for MCN Community and Human Services. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**



Amanda Rutland/MNN

A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Jan. 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and MCN Principal Chief James Floyd has nominated Neenah Tiger for approval. The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' has acquired a biography from Neenah Tiger and all other cabinet confirmations addressed during this session and published them on the 'MNN' Facebook page and will place them in the Feb. 15 edition.

The 'MNN' has requested interviews with these individuals and all other commissioned cabinet members and did not receive them as of press time.

The 'MNN' received a statement from Floyd regarding his selections, which can be viewed on page 10.

• **TR 16-006 Confirming the nomination of Kenneth Davis as administrator for the MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office. Reps. Rufus Scott and Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd has nominated Davis for approval. The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term.

• **TR 16-007 Confirming the nomination of Judy Haumpy to serve as MCN tribal administrator. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-4 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Thomas Yahola, Johnnie Greene and Jennings voting against it.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd has nominated Haumpy for approval. The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term.

Green explained her vote on this confirmation.

"I've known her for years," she said. "I had gotten a lot of calls from citizens, plus employees that wanted me to vote against her and that's all I can say about that. They voted me in and that's how I wanted to vote for them."

The 'MNN' reached Jennings and he declined to comment. The 'MNN' contacted Hill Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 and did not receive a response as of press time.

• **TR 16-008 Confirming the nomination of Jerry McPeak to serve as MCN tax commissioner. Reps. Robert Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-1 with Jennings voting against it.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd has nominated McPeak for approval. The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term.

Greene explained her vote on this confirmation.

"I have always supported him because he knows what he's doing," she said. "He can speak with the people in Oklahoma City, plus D.C. and I have a lot of confidence in him."

The 'MNN' reached Jennings and he declined to comment.

• **TR 16-009 Confirming the nomination of Kevin Dellinger to serve as MCN attorney general. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd has nominated Dellinger for approval. The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term.

• **TR 16-010 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute Global Payments Gaming Services agreement for check guarantee services, check cashing services and cash advance services for the Nation's gaming operations. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize these services from GPGS Inc. for MCN gaming facilities and requires Council approval to do so according to tribal law.

• **TR 16-011 Authorizing GOAB to execute a minimum lease agreement and its ancillary documents and exhibits to all the agreements with Aristocrat Technologies Inc. and Video Gaming Technologies Inc. Hill and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize Aristocrat Technologies services for MCN gaming facilities and requires Council approval to do so according to tribal law.

According to their website, the company offers services such as electronic gaming machines and interactive video terminal systems through online content distribution in regulated markets.

• **TR 16-012 Authorizing GOAB to execute a master license agreement with Varonis Inc. for MCN gaming operations. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize Varonis services for MCN gaming facilities and requires Council approval to do so according to tribal law.

According to the Varonis website, their mission is to protect their clients' sensitive information from threats, automate time-consuming tasks and extract valuable insight from their data.

• **TR 16-013 Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The legislation renews MCN membership in NCAI. MCN enrollment of 76,980 citizens gives the Nation 180 votes in various aspects of the organization's affairs.

It also makes Floyd the official MCN delegate to NCAI with a list of alternate delegates made up of other tribal officials.

• **NCA 16-001 Authorizing the expenditure of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration 2014 and 2015 discretionary grant funds and MCN Tribal Transportation Transit Program income and MCN Tribal Transportation chartered program income for the purchase of three, 14-passenger compressed natural gas buses for the MCN Transit Program. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

TTP received $216,175 in 2014 and 2015 DOT grant funds and wishes to use them to purchase the buses, which cost a total of $278,580, leaving TTP to match $62,405 for the remaining cost out of their Transit program income.

• **NCA 16-002 Amending NCA 15-270 (Appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of real property located in McIntosh County.). Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

NCA 15-270 approved the purchase of approximately 10 acres in McIntosh County, appropriating $45,000 for the property and $15,000 for incidental costs out of the Capitol Improvement Fund Account.

This legislation changes the funding source for both to the Economic and Land Acquisition Fund Account.

• **NCA 16-003 Authorizing the expenditure of $3,500 awarded from the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc. to the Mvskoke Loan Fund. Hill and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The money is a grant from ONAC and MLF aims to use the it towards training a staff member in credit counseling through Rural Dynamics Inc. to assist entrepreneurs in improving their credit ratings and preparing them for business loans.

• **NCA 16-005 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the Bedouin Shrine. Rep. Dode Barnett**

Council - 7

A MCN Citizen Owned Business

Integrity Sales

A MCN Citizen Owned Business

Psalms 25:21

Integrity Sales has moved to 22605 HWY 75
Between Schulter & Okmulgee, OK

We have a huge selection of NEW mattress in stock at great prices...*Come see our showroom...From $149 Twin set*

Over 50 buildings in stock NO CREDIT CHECK

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- UTVs
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Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Hufft and Hill voting against it.

The Shrine has helped transport over 830 Shrine Hospital patients that reside in their 17 county jurisdiction of which six are in the MCN boundaries.

This service has cost over $61,824.06 and they are asking for the donation to help purchase a van and cover lodging and transportation.

• **NCA 16-007 Amending NCA 14-101 (Approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form Muscogee (Creek) Nation DME LLC under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and adopting the operating agreement for MCN DME LLC.). Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

NCA 14-101 created DME, a medical supply and durable medical equipment business citing that it was aimed at promoting public health and safety as well as economic development.

The company is required to submit quarterly financials to the principal chief and Council. Thirty days after submission, the DME board is to determine the company's quarterly net income and may approve a distribution of it back to the tribe.

The amendment changes the recipient of this income from the MCN Department of Health to MCN. It also changes the minimum amount of expense general liability insurance for all activities on sites of the company's business or ventures from $5 million to $3 million.

A representative for DME present at the Jan. 21 Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting explained that their legal counsel advised them to change the operating agreement stating that it was not legal to return profits to MCNDH.

The representative also said that their counsel advised them to change the insurance amount, stating that the original coverage mandated by the legislation was excessive.

The representative said that they had already had the recommended amount when she checked their policy and needed to change the legislation to be compliant with the law.

• **NCA 16-008 Authorizing the expenditure of $3,050 awarded from a NAGPRA grant to the MCN Cultural Preservation Department. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

Cultural Preservation is eligible to use remaining funds awarded in 2013 by a NAGPRA grant and wishes to use them for travel in fiscal year 2016 for repatriations as authorized by the award.

• **NCA 16-009 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 35, Subsection 9-103 titled, 'Special Appropriation Guidelines' and amending MCNCA Title 35, Subsection 13-103 titled, 'Eligibility; Guidelines and Policy.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

This legislation is aimed at altering the process for requesting special appropriations from MCN.

It would change the educational and curricular request section to add that those over 25 years of age requesting assistance not covered by MCN will be required to provide proof of matching funds no less than 50 percent of the amount requested.

It would also alter the eligibility section to add that citizens up to the age of 24 are eligible for appropriations to help cover educational activities and opportunities that are not specifically part of school curriculum.

It would add that assistance for domestic educational activities and opportunities not specifically part of school curriculum will be 50 percent of the total expenses but no more than $1,000 per individual, per fiscal year.

It would also add that assistance for international educational activities and opportunities not specifically part of school curriculum will be 50 percent of the total expenses but no more than $2,000 per individual, per fiscal year.

• **NCA 16-010 Amending MCNCA Title 25, Chapter 3 titled, 'National Congress of American Indians.' Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The legislation would add a MCN Supreme Court justice to the list of alternate delegates to NCAI.

• **NCA 16-011 Authorizing a $933 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 15-0.**

Rep. Del Beaver made the motion to postpone citing the changes that would be implemented to special appropriations by NCA 16-009.

• **NCA 16-016 Approving the comprehensive annual budget for FY 2016 and providing for appropriations. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The approved budget, including the continuing ordinances for the first two quarters of FY 2016 according to Council Secretary Kristie Sewell, is $104,137,127 in federal funds, $188,845,573 in tribal funds for a total of $292,982,700.

The next regular session is scheduled Feb. 27.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: http://www.mcnnc.com, and the MCN Code Annotated is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



New chief discusses plans, priorities, style



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Gary Fife interviews Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd on 'Mvskoke Radio' Jan. 20 at the KOKL studio in Okmulgee, Okla.

Floyd looks ahead in his new administration on 'Mvskoke Radio'

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The new principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, James Floyd joined 'Mvskoke Radio' host Gary Fife in studio Jan. 20 where he discussed his plans, priorities, methods and style.

MVSKOKE RADIO: When your predecessor left office, there was a statement that he was pleased that he had found the tribe needing and had left it in pretty good shape. Now that you've a chance to look at it and go over a budget, staffing and priorities, what's you're assessment? Are we in great shape or where are we, realistically?

JAMES FLOYD: Well, first of all, for those who were there, I know they tried their best. I was able to meet with a number of them before I took office and talk about their programs and talk about the direction they were going, what they had achieved. So, I wanted to look at those things that they had in progress that need to be followed up on, so we could have some continuity progress for the Nation.

Also, those opportunities that were open so that we could then go in and if we needed to go in a different direction or if we needed to make some program changes, we could do that and still improve services to our citizens.

As I stepped in, you know, I held no ill will toward anyone. You just pick up with what you have and you go forward. We knew we had a deficit that was articulated six months ago at least, as the administration put forward the budget for 2016. We had a continuing resolution.

What I wanted to do was to make sure that we lived within the amount of money that was going to be available to the executive branch. Since that time, we have met with the Council and put forward the budget, that in the gross numbers, we can balance this year.

But in the fine points of it, I think we have until the 28th of this month (January) to come up with more details about the things that we will be doing, how we'll be doing that and we're working on as we speak.

I've been very impressed with the staff who've come forward with new ideas and 'hey, this is something that we can do that can still do and may not cost as much.'

MR: Let me turn to some of those economics. First of all, let's talk about some of the existing projects. You've got Margaritaville nearing completion, the FlyingTee is well underway and the Country Club. So, let's get your thoughts there. First of all, Margaritaville.

FLOYD: I was there Monday (Jan. 18) and met with one of the TERO certified contractors, Indian-owned company, putting up the studs. I think we were on the 18th floor. What I saw was a contractor that was very vested in doing the best possible job on this project. Had nine Native employees and I think seven of them were Creek. The quality of work was very impressive.

That's the type of thing, I think, that represents the Nation as a whole. If we have someone who is Native, employing citizens constructing a business like that, which is a multi, hundred million dollar business, that's significant in knowing that they've got pride in what they're doing.

I will reflect further in the opening in December when they open, in the quality of the center that we'll have there and the quality of service that we'll have to our citizens and to the public as well.

Also, it's just a great feeling of the people who are constructing that. We met several tribal citizens that are working there and they told me how long they had worked there and the pride they take in the workmanship that they're providing there.

So, Margaritaville is tentatively set for the end of December, first of January opening and it's right on schedule.

FlyingTee should be opening in about April of this year.

MR: The Country Club?

FLOYD: We're looking at that for several different uses. That property's laid dormant for a couple of years. We've got at least three different proposals that are being floated around now on the use of that property. I think we'll be sending something to the National Council within the next 30 to 45 days where we feel that we should be with that property in its future use.

MR: Do any of those discussions include the possibility of getting rid of it?

FLOYD: One of them would, how we exit that. I can't go into detail about what that would be. We have interest in that as well from people. We want to make sure that, going forward, that we have some that, first, involves the community. That's a highly visible and historic part of the Okmulgee community. We want to make sure that whatever we do respects that because we are a part of the community. We want to remain a good citizen of our community.

The proposals are kind of built around that concept. As I've said, we have at least three of them that I've seen so far that are in various stages of development.

MR: One of the actions we've seen in recent weeks was a change in the amount of revenues coming from the casinos that would be flowing to the tribe. There's an increase there. Any ideas about what might happen with that?

FLOYD: We expect the progress of the revenue from the gaming to grow this year. As Margaritaville comes on, we're looking at several scenarios that the revenue will look like in the first few quarters because we will have some expenses in opening that and hiring additional staff and things like that.

But, we also, sometimes look at that one project as everything that we do, but we have smaller casinos and then we have what I call the 'big three', Muskogee, Okmulgee and Tulsa. Those are also doing well and all promise to do better and a fourth one that is growing as well.

We want to make sure that those are all considered in our revenue decision-making. I've had some discussions with the National Council already of how we might want to look at the gaming operation in terms of how it fits into the 'branding' for the entire tribe and how we may be able to capitalize on that and have additional revenue coming in.

MR: You mentioned the relations with other governments, including Okmulgee. How do you envision that happening for you? What do you want to see develop? The City of Tulsa is going to be asking us for money for their low-water dams.

Oklahoma (state) is in a hole there and would love to get some sort of relationship there. The federal government has been proposing several things that they want to see. Do you have any plans there; I know it's still very early for you, but what's on those agendas?

FLOYD: Let me start first local with the City of Okmulgee and the downtown project. The Council House is probably the keystone to the re-development of downtown Okmulgee. We want to be involved in that.

We want to have several options in restoring the Council House. I think we'll have something, that in the next month, that show the plan forward on that we can restore it fully and then maintain it afterwards.

MR: Keep that one hot; I want to come back to it. But, what about the other governments?

FLOYD: Let me start with the governor because, I think, the first week I was here, the second chief and I met with the governor for an hour, talked about the state of the state and what we anticipate as some of the needs that we have as a tribe and how we may work with the state.

There are some opportunities that exist with the state divesting of some resources that are assets, that are within the Nation's boundaries that we want to take a look at that could be some things that we may be able to obtain basically for free and where does that fit into our plan overall and how can we use it to our advantage?

We talked about Fountainhead and the land surrounding that the state has and the transfer of that to the Nation. We had a very good discussion there.

Regarding other relation-

Plans ~ 9



Plans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"I fully understand that we need to get more information out to people and we will be doing so, both on the financial side and the programmatic progress."

— MCN Principal Chief James Floyd

ships, we do have to work with our U.S. delegation, congressmen and senators. We've been able to talk to a couple of the representatives and haven't yet spoken with either of the senators, but I have in the past, in my previous role working with veterans. I think they already know who I am, so it's just a matter of the issue coming before them and meeting with them and briefing them.

The City of Tulsa, you know, they're going through an election year coming up for their mayor. So, I'm sure that they want to talk to us. I have not yet had meetings with them. The low-water dam—they're going to have to come up with something there. We just don't have the funds to put in to whatever. I've heard 45 million or something like that. So, there's going to have to be some discussion about that.

We would benefit from a low-water dam but so would a lot of other people. So, I don't see that the tribe would be the one that would be going in, making that huge investment. I think that they already have plans for that in their Vision 2025 so I think that we will have discussions about their plans for that.

Our businesses on both sides of the river are key parts to the development of that river, so I think we've contributed so we're waiting for them to step up.

MR: You mentioned the Council House. We know that it's age and structure is really creating what's becoming a critical problem. A recent request from the Historic Preservation folks was rejected by the Council, $3.5 million. The discussion was that the timing was bad and that the request came at the same time when we had critical needs in health care for contract health and other things.

We're kind of on the horns of a dilemma here. We're seeing a building that's so important to our history and culture and yet, we have the immediate need of health care for our citizens. Where do we go there?

FLOYD: I think the first week I was in office, I talked to the Interior Department of the tribe and requested some proposals that we could look at where we don't have to come back to the Council for appropriated money because I fully understand the needs that we have. There are some possibilities.

The Council House has state historic status. There may be some available grants that would help us there. There's a possibility of us operating it during the restoration as a limited liability corporation (LLC) and because it's a historic building there are also tax credits available. Companies may want to buy into it and contribute money towards its restoration for the tax credits itself.

There's also a foundation, so we want to make sure that we can use grant funds or private dollars to restore it and then have the foundation to be able to be utilized to maintain and preserve that building for the future. I think that can be done without a significant contribution by the tribe. So, we're meeting on this every week and we'll see which proposals make the most sense in realizing the fact that we can go in there and restore that as soon as possible.

MR: One of the questions high on the list from employees is time cards. Are we going to go back to that system?

FLOYD: Yes. At the outset of my administration, we need to let everybody be aware of the expectations. We're merely asking them to report to work on time, be there and leave on time. We have to be able to have some way to, although we trust them, we have to have a way to validate that. I think that's just being responsible. We're paying them full-time so we expect that. I would expect none the less out of myself. I think we've made some progress there.

We get the phone calls, we get the emails, we know the calls that are not answered, the people who are not there so we've got to face up to the fact that we can't hide anything. So just be accountable and responsible and things will be much better.

MR: Let me ask about your personal style. Our news crew discussed what they saw during the inauguration. The comment was 'less flashy.' There have been 'black-tie' events and those kinds of things in the past. How would you describe your style?

FLOYD: I think I can speak for me and the second chief. We're just down to earth people. That fact that I'm principal chief isn't going to change me. I'm the person that I am and I hope that people feel comfortable around. I grew up in a family of nine, poor and I think it taught me ethics in terms of how we conduct ourselves. So I think that—I hope—that people will find us, me and second chief, very approachable.

We want to be seen at events and we want to be seen as just regular people, because they then feel like they have the ability to talk to us without any pretense. That's fine with me. I really like to be out in community events.

I might just show up myself. I don't need anybody around me. I feel comfortable in those settings. I love to go to the meetings, regardless if its meeting with mekkos or going to churches or going to ceremonial grounds. That's the life I grew up with anyway.

You talked about the 'black-tie' affairs; we may have a couple of those because we do have to raise money for education, the scholarship foundation. So, we may do something, but we'll do it in a respectful way. I think the thing that is very advantageous to the tribe is our own culture. If we can demonstrate our unique culture to the public I think they're going to be willing to donate money to us.

MR: (Caller question): I wanted to talk about Mvskoke Media. They need help with the Freedom of Information Act, we need open records act at the tribe, too. What can we do and what can you do to get the National Council to get the media the tools they need to do their job?

FLOYD: I think two things come to mind very quickly. One, the recognition of the information that we need to get out to the public. This is something that's the topic of discussion every day because we were talking about some information today. To work with the independent media and the executive branch, we'll probably begin to issue more press releases in terms of information that citizens and the public need to know about our programs.

We've talked about quarterly reports to the National Council and the design of those and the content. I think you'll be seeing something different there as well. That's going to be fully reportable. It may be a shock to some people, but what it is, there's a lot of depth to some of the programs.

What we're trying to figure out is, what can we give that provides useful information to our citizens without confusing them. You can easily confuse them with just the details of the information.

We're going to be working through that and relying on people's feedback, both to the National Council and to myself, 'What's useful and what's not?' Then modifying that as we need to.

I fully understand that we need to get more information out to people and we will be doing so, both on the financial side and the programmatic progress. That we have the visions that we have in terms of projects that we're looking at.

MR: We're delighted to do the positive stories and the things of progress and achievement and things like that. But there are times when we feel like we have to ask the tough questions and cover something more in the negative light. How do you see this happening with you when we've got to come at you with a tough story?

FLOYD: We've talked about this with the staff. The Cabinet meets eight o'clock every Monday morning. We talked about that this week because some of them wanted to know how they can get information out.

So, I said, first of all, we need to know we have independent media. These are professional journalists. You treat them with the same degree of respect and recognition as you do any other media.

Internally, we will be preparing information and press releases and things that we haven't done before that we'll send out to Mvskoke Media, we'll send out to other media for the informational things, as I talked about the grants we've just got.

But I told them, we need to be prepared to answer questions, because it isn't just going to be a PR arm of the tribe. These are professional journalists and we need to anticipate that there are going to be actions, we need to be armed with information so we can respond appropriately.

I think that they accepted that, they recognize that. Now, we'll have to work through that because some may have not, in the past, been confronted with media and answered questions. On our side we'll be teaching them how to respond to questions and not get nervous and say, 'I can't tell you', 'No comment.' Those things aren't appropriate. We have the information or we can get the information to respond.

MR: Big question here: Your relations with the National Council. How do you look at your relations with them?

FLOYD: So far the relationship has worked out very well and I think shows the degree of openness that we have. I've had the speaker of the National Council come over several times and we just sat down and had a conversation.

By the same token, we've gone over there and said, 'I want to talk to you about something,' because they're dealing with it as well. We kind of work arm-in-arm on some of these issues. That the citizens may go to the National Council but they may come to us as well.

It gives us a fuller story of the background of an issue that they may be dealing with or we're all dealing with. I think if we can share that information, ultimately, it's the citizen or the community that's going to benefit from it. I think that so far, that's worked out very well. We'll be meeting again this week in committees.

Our attendance in committees is going to be helpful as well because we're going to be right there to have a question. We will be able to respond and that's, I think, going to be the kind of method that we'll use.

We're one tribe, same citizens, so there shouldn't be two separate versions of a story to them.

MR: What kind of thoughts or message would you like to leave with our listeners and citizens?

FLOYD: First of all, I want to thank them very much because I think one of the things that has continued from the campaign to now, is their communication to me. As I walked in, I have 18 phone calls to return from citizens and I apologize if I call you late at night, but that's kind of the way things work sometimes.

But that's OK because I think that there's some security in knowing that they can just send me an email or text me. It may not be immediately available but I will get back to them. That's just the nature of the way people communicate these days.

I appreciate them being able to talk to me and then we will schedule when we can go out into the communities and be available as well.

Tune into 'Mvskoke Radio' Wednesdays at 10 a.m., on 1240AM, The Brew KOKL Okmulgee.

Links to a live stream of every broadcast can be found at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Radio/radio.html.

MR archives are available at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCTXp1P2vpsvH-j24OI2Y0wg.

Five MCN Cabinet positions confirmed by Council

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council confirmed five nominations for executive branch cabinet positions Jan. 30 during the Council quarterly session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

In a pre-recorded statement, MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said he chose these five individuals for their strengths in transparency, honesty and openness.

"So, those three things are probably the most important things that I think they need to be having in leadership roles," Floyd said.

Council Speaker Lucian Tiger said nominations were reviewed according to the organizational chart and job description.

"And look into their background and their personal feelings on certain things. And also just the job performance in the past, things they have and have not done.

"And basically you just want to make sure that they're qualified through the job description for the position that they're being confirmed for," Tiger said.

Tiger also expressed his opinion on Muscogee (Creek) citizen preference for these positions.

"You want to make sure you are giving the best, most qualified individual for the job. If they are Creek, absolutely they should come first and foremost.

"But if they aren't, and there's someone more qualified, I believe they should have an opportunity as well because we want someone in these positions that can continue the progression for our Nation and make it better for everyone," Tiger said.

Candidate biographies were submitted by the Office of the Principal Chief.

Secretary of Community and Human Services - Neenah Tiger

Neenah Tiger has provided her expertise to improve client-based programs at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation since 2005. Tiger's strong desire to be of service and experience with plan and policy development and ability to successfully train and educate employees has been the driving force for the inception and success of the MCN TANF and Social Security Assistance Programs.

During Tiger's tenure as the TANF Program Director, she achieved a satisfied service population of 150 cases consisting of numerous client success stories through the effective development and maintenance of youth and subsidized employment programs and a program work participation rate above 25 percent for three years.

Because of her success and experience in the TANF Program, Tiger was selected to be the Director of the MCN Division of Human Services. As director, Tiger efficaciously managed 15 social service programs covering an 11-county jurisdiction providing services to members of all federally-recognized tribes. She was able to effectively oversee five office sites with 42 employees.

As a community development planner, she assisted Muscogee (Creek) chartered communities in increasing their education of policies and procedures.

Tiger matriculated at East Central University in Ada, Okla., with a bachelor's in political science with an emphasis in criminal justice.

Tiger is a member of the National Congress of American Indians. Tiger is of the Bird Clan (Fuswvlke) and Hecete Band. While Gar Creek (Esapv Hvcce Cuko-rakko) is her home ceremonial ground, she is an active participant at Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground (Fuco Hvcce Cuko-rakko), her spouse's home ceremonial ground.

Being a member of a large family and having two sons (twin boys), family is and always has been important to Tiger.

This dedication to care for family and friends has lead her to be cognizant of the needs of others. Tiger's past and current achievements exhibit that desire, willingness and ability to be of service to her people.

Veterans Affairs Services Administrator - Ken Davis

- I was born in Charleston, S.C.
- My father was career Air Force (29 years) (retired Chief Master Sergeant).
- My mother was in the Air Force from 1950 -1955.
- I am the great-grandson of the Muscogee (Creek) rancher Hugh Henry, whom Henryetta is named after.
- I belong to the Kecopatakv Tribal Town.
- I belong to the Raccoon Clan.
- I belong to and attend St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Okmulgee, Okla.
- I am an active chess player.
- I am an active hobbyist with radio controlled helicopters, plastic models, shooting, hiking and motorcycling.
- I served four years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps (1981 – 1985).
- I served seven years in U.S. Marine Corps Reserves (1986 – 1993).
- I am MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) trained, qualified and held billets in: Tanks, Artillery, Reconnaissance, Maintenance Management and Embarkation.
- I fought in the Kuwait War in 1991.
- I am have been married 27 years to the former Filena de Los Angeles Morales. She is of the Diriangen Clan of the Chorotega tribe of Nicaragua.
- I have one son and two daughters; ages 26, 25 and 21.
- I have been Director of VASO since Sept. 7, 2004.

Tribal Administrator - Judy Haumpy

Judy Haumpy is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is a graduate of Kellyville High School, in Kellyville, Okla. She received her associate's from Haskell Indian Jr. College, and her bachelor's in Biology from Baker University, in Baldwin, Kan.

After graduating from Baker, she completed twenty-six hours (26) towards a Masters from the University of Kansas. She received her Master in Human Relations with an emphasis in Chemical Dependency Counseling from the University of Oklahoma.

She was Manager of the Office of Management and Budget for MCN from January 2012 until March 2015. In July 2008, she was Manager of Administration with the Census Bureau Department of Commerce. Her initial hire date with MCN began in October 1982 until 2003.

Chronology of employment:

- 1982 -1983 Food Distribution - Nutrition Ed. Specialist - Chief Cox Adm.
- 1983 - 1988 Social Service - Caseworker/Manager
- 1989 - 2001 Self-Govenance/Policy & Research - Chief Beaver Adm.
- 2001 - 2003 Deputy Director of Community Service
- 2005 - 2007 Self-Governance - Chief Ellis Adm.
- 1987 - Initiated Federal Funds (LIHEAP) purchased $3,000 of propane with McMillian Propane at $.89 per gallon for distribution during winter months, rather than return funds and savings to Nation and families.
- 2003 - Applied for HIS grant with matching funds from National Council to construct Food Distribution
- Building, Construction was completed and opened in 2004 under Chief Ellis administration.

Tax Commissioner - Jerry McPeak

- Raised in McIntosh and Creek County, son of Lonnie and Edith (Nunn) McPeak, and taught to be proud of his Creek heritage, going to stick ball games and stomp dances near Hanna.
- Married to Veda (Wildcat) McPeak a full-blood Cherokee woman. Jerry says, "I couldn't fool any Creek women."
- Four children from oldest to youngest: Jeff married to Shiloh with grandson Jayce live in Webbers Falls, Jason married to Emmy with granddaughter Jade live in Checotah, Jinger daughter lives in Glenpool working on a family, and Jori daughter is a senior at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva majoring in Agriculture Education.
- Jerry obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University and a Master's degree from Northeastern State University.
- Jerry taught agriculture and served as Dean of Men at Connors State College for 27 years.
- He became known nationwide for his livestock judging teams and for originating Be A Champ Show Cattle and Lamb Camps.
- Veda and Jerry established Be A Champ Show Cattle and Lamb Camps 35 years ago. It was the first camp of its kind and became the largest, hosting 500 kids from all over the United States, for ages 9-19 each summer.
- In 2004, Jerry was elected Oklahoma State Representative and serves or served Muskogee, McIntosh and Wagoner counties. "This was a family thing. Suggested by my son Jeff, endorsed by wife Veda, with the rest of the family voting yes we should run EXCEPT Jori. She was a firm no. Now, she is the most politically involved of the bunch."
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis first appointed Jerry as a tax commissioner. Chief Ellis and Mike Flud had worked with Jerry on tobacco compacts for several years.
- In 2007, Chief Ellis presented McPeak with an Eagle feather and called it the "Statesmanship Award". While presenting it Chief Ellis said, "It's never been given before." McPeak says, "That was such a great feeling. It was humbling and I am still honored."
- MCN Principal Chief George Tiger kept McPeak on as tax commissioner and while he was in office, two tobacco compacts were crafted. The one MCN is working under now is considered by experts to be the best tobacco compact in Oklahoma.
- "I am honored to be selected by Chief Floyd to continue my service to the Muscogee people as Tax Commissioner and am appreciative of the opportunity." McPeak stated.
- He continued, "The ladies in our Tax Commission office are knowledgeable of the law and understand the privilege it is to help our people."

Behind their service counter, is a sign that says 'Find A Way.'

- We believe the citizens of the Nation are our job. We hope the people want to come back to our office tomorrow whether they need a tag or not."

Attorney General - Kevin Dellinger

Kevin Dellinger is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He is a graduate of Tulsa Memorial High School in Tulsa, Okla.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kan.

After graduating from Baker University, he received his Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law in Oklahoma City.

He was an assistant attorney general for MCN from May 1996 until February 2008.

In February 2008, he was appointed and confirmed as the first MCN Secretary of the Nation.

In January 2012, he returned to the MCN Office of the Attorney General as an assistant attorney general.



The line provides an automated transcript for MM of the information provided to protect the identity of callers.

Callers are asked to present credible, newsworthy information that can potentially be substantiated through sound journalistic research. They are also asked to furnish any documentation or other tips that can help provide documentation for their claims.

Rumors, gossip and disparaging attacks are discouraged.

Vnokeckv: The Mvskoke language of love

Language program discusses the concept in Mvskoke culture

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is just past that time of year when minds turn to sweethearts and candy for Valentine's Day, but it is a holiday that was most likely brought to the New World by European colonists.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program Instructor Rebecca Barnett said that only in more recent times has the holiday and outward displays of affection been recognized by Mvskoke people.

"I think our people way back in history, they were really private people and it was meant just for the two," Barnett said.

Language Instructor Gracine Hicks added that couples did not use any particular terms of endearment for each other.

"There are a lot of things that they might call their 'baby cakes' or we don't have that. We can translate it, but it doesn't sound right," Hicks said.

Both ladies explained that individuals could have nicknames but those names were generally given based on actions.

"It is what they are doing that you see, you know, that's how you nickname your babies," Hicks said.

The lack of endearment terms is evidence of the Mvskoke concept of love.

"Your parents didn't really hug you. It was just understood that they had that love for you," Barnett said.

Hicks said love was shown more through actions than words.

"Growing up, like Becky said, the meals that your mom prepared for you, you know, that was saying 'I love you' without saying it," Hicks said.

The Mvskoke concept of love was more brotherly love than romantic love.

Both Hicks and Barnett recalled memories of their mothers leaving leftover food out in case someone stopped by and was hungry.

Hicks, who was raised in church, said her mother told her she had to love everyone.

"That was her way of telling us that even though someone does you wrong, you love them," Hicks said.

Barnett said love was also taught at the ceremonial grounds in the talks given.

"I think we grew up in a society of love," Barnett said. "As a Mvskoke people, that's all we were taught was to love."

Barnett said as instructors of the Mvskoke language, they fight to save Mvskoke culture and traditions.

"But there is one thing I hope we don't lose," Barnett said, "that is that respect and love that our people had coming from the Trail of Tears and brought it to Oklahoma."

Both teachers shared some words that related to Valentine's Day.

***Valentine's Day*:**

Vnokeckv Nettv/ Aw-no-geh-che-kuh Nit-TUH (Love Day)

Cvfek cumpv Nettv/ Gee-fik JUHM-buh Nit-TUH (Sweet Heart Day)

1. *Babe*: pepe/Bee-bee

2. *Beautiful*: herose/Hee-thlee-oh-ss-ee or heruse/Hee-thlee-oo-ss-ee

3. *Candy*: nak cumpv/Naw-K Jum-Buh (Something sweet)

4. *Cuddle bear*: nokosuce/ Noh-gohs-oo-gee

5. *Flowers*: pakpvkuce/Bawk-buh-koo-gee

6. *(My) Honey*: fo cvmpv/ f-oh Jum-buh

7. *Really handsome*: semvnackuse/ Sim-uh-nawg-koo-gee

8. *Sweetie*: cumpe/Jum-bee

9. *Liking*: mvloste

10. *Love*: vnokeckv/ Aw-no-geh-che-kuh

11. *Sweetheart*: cvfek cvmpv/Juh-fik Jum-buh

12. *I love you*: ecenokecis/EE-gee-noh-gee-Jay-ss

13. *Let's get married*: etepakvkes/EE-dee-BAK-uh-geess

14. *To get married*: etehvlatetv/ EE-dee-huh-law-dee-tuh

Grasshopper named for Mvskokvlke

Melanoplus muscogee dates back to ice age

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Bounding freely through the air, the melanoplus muscogee species of grasshopper searches for its next meal in the Fall Line Sandhills west of Macon, Ga.

The sandhills are a unique area of sandy earth found along a waterfall dotted, sloping boundary that crosses Georgia, also known as the fall line.

65.5-261 million years ago, the fall line met the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division's website, DNR purchased the 876 acres in 2006 to help protect the rare wildlife that call the Fall Line Sandhills Wildlife Management Area home.

Mississippi Entomological Museum and Mississippi State University Assistant Research Professor Dr. JoVonn Hill published a research article Oct. 14, 2015 detailing his analysis into a group of grasshoppers, and presented 21 new species including melanoplus muscogee.



Submission

"I was working on this group of grasshoppers. It's a closely related group," Hill said. "As we learned more about these organisms, we've learned better ways to identify them."

Hill said that all of the species have a similar outer appearance, but differ when they are dissected. Parts of the male reproductive system help identify the difference species and these differences make them unable to mate with other species.

He named one of the new species of grasshopper in honor of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation since it is found in the original MCN homelands.

"I thought it would be a nice sort of marker for that," Hill said.

He said there is certain criteria that must be followed from the International Code on Zoological Nomenclature to create the scientific name for each creature.

"You have to describe it, give some sort of physical description of it and tell how it differs from related species," Hill said. "You do have to give it a name and there's certain requirements for the name."

During his research, Hill set out with his net to catch specimen in their habitats, as well as borrowed specimen from other collections to analyze.

He then mapped out the species to notate where each type lived. Melanoplus muscogee was found in around five-six habitats researched.

Adults of the species can be seen from August-November.

Because the grasshopper is restricted to the endangered ecosystem known as the sandhills, Hill said that melanoplus muscogee is monitored by the DNR. However, ample populations of the grasshopper are located in each habitat.

"There's certain areas strictly in the southeastern U.S. that are known to have high levels of biodiversity and all of the species from this group are associated with the each of those little regions," Hill said.

Melanoplus muscogee males average 18.9 millimeters in length, females average 23.2 millimeters and the species is flightless.

"Things like a roadway or major rivers, those sort of things are barriers to this species," Hill said.

He believes that the species began to differ from similar grasshoppers as far back as the ice age, and explains the similar outer appearance, but differing inner appearance.

"Most of the water was locked up in the ice, and so the rivers were smaller," Hill said. "These grasshoppers probably had bigger ranges then."

When the ice melted, the rivers grew and helped divide the grasshopper population.

The isolated groups morphed into many different species due to their inability to fly.

Hill plans to work with a colleague to research the plants eaten by the 21 discovered species of grasshoppers and create a food web based upon their findings.

"It certainly will help with their management and conservation to know about their diet," he said.

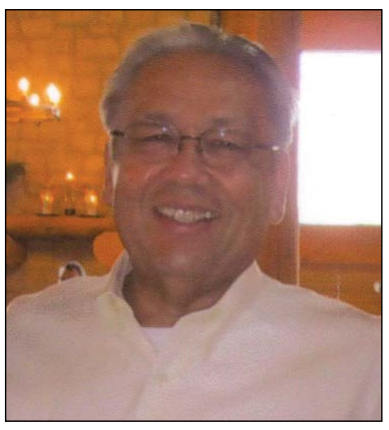
Most grasshoppers dine on a variety of plants, and he expects melanoplus muscogee to be similar.

Hill has described around 24 new species of grasshopper in the last five-six years in the southeastern U.S.

"There's still a lot of biodiversity out there left to be discovered… There's a lot here in our own backyard that we don't know about and are losing because of development and habitat destruction," he said.

Hill also researches other insects and said if another type was found in the Muscogee (Creek) homelands, he would consider naming it for the Nation as well.

MICHAEL FACTOR



TULSA, Okla. — Michael Wayne Factor passed away Jan. 16, 2016 in Tulsa at the age of 69. He was born Sept. 4, 1946 to Walter and Lucille Factor in Claremore.

Michael served in the U.S. Navy for three years, 11 months and 12 days, according to him. He spent much of that time stationed in Italy and Hawaii. When he left the Navy, he returned home to attend the University of Central Oklahoma, formerly Central State and received a bachelor's degree in accounting.

In 1972, Michael married his wife of 43 years, Peggy Ann Franks.

Michael and Peggy had two boys Patrick and Stephen. Over Michael's career, he worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and retired from the federal government in Kansas City, Mo.

Michael and Peggy enjoyed traveling the world together. They also loved to visit their boys and grandchildren in Dallas and attended many University of Oklahoma football games in Norman.

Michael is survived by his: wife, Peggy; oldest son, Patrick and wife, Kelli along with his grandsons, Michael and Ryland, of Dallas; youngest son, Stephen of Dallas; sisters, Cynthia Factor of Okmulgee, her daughters, Cindy Branson of Skiatook and Lisa Van Brunt of Wyoming, her son Paul Treat of Beggs and his sister, Arlene Efurd, her husband, Ronnie and daughter Angela of Beggs.

A memorial service was conducted Jan. 19 in Okmulgee.

RAMONA LINCOLN



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ramona Sue Wacoche Sack Lincoln, a resident of Muskogee passed away Sept. 24, 2015 in Okmulgee at the age of 76. She was born Dec. 15, 1938 to Rev. Willie S. Wacoche and Elizabeth (Thompson) Wacoche Porter. She was a resident of Muskogee where she raised her family. Her childhood days were spent in Henryetta until the passing of her brother Rueben and sister Janie.

She graduated from Hitchita High School and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee with an associate degree.

She was a life-long member of Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church in Hitchita. She enjoyed going to Creek Churches and singing our Native Hymns. She was baptized by Rev. Cap Mcintosh at Silver Spring Baptist Church.

Ramona is preceded in death by her: parents, Rev. Willie S. Wacoche and Elizabeth (Thompson) Wacoche Porter; husband, Emery Lincoln; brother, Rueben (Butch) Wacoche and sisters, Janie Bernita Wacoche and Pauline Wacoche McCombs.

She leaves behind: children, Charley Sack of Muskogee, Curtis Sack and wife, Tracey Henoch of Lawrence, Kan., Melvin Sack of Oklahoma City, Raymond Sack and wife, Stephanie of Muskogee, Jackie Wiedel of Tulsa, Teresa Garrett and husband, Larry of Muskogee; 13 grandchildren; Seven great-grandchildren; brother, Benjamin Willie Wacoche and wife, Karen of Oklahoma City; sisters, Jean Berryhill and husband Ken Scott of Okmulgee, Ruby Dee Gleaton and husband, Duke of Tulsa; her second cousins from Tahlequah and a host of friends and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 28, 2015 at Grave Creek Indian Baptist Church in Hitchita with Revs. Marvin Lowe and John Wayne officiating.

ELEANOR MUSTARI



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Eleanor 'June' Bullett-Mustari was called by the Lord Dec. 17, 2015.

She joins her parents Mattie and Bailey Bullett along with her brothers and sisters.

She was born in Hanna July 9, 1939 and was a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen. She grew up on Bullett Hill in Hanna and went to school at Trenton and Haskell later.

After graduation, she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where she served three years and received an honorable discharge. She met her husband Eugene while in the service and they were married July 11, 1959.

After a while, they settled in Tulsa and spent their life together. June was always involved in national, local and Muscogee (Creek) Nation politics. Eleanor championed hard for the one she chose. This would show up in elections she worked for. She particularly kept a close eye on MCN offices and spoke out when she saw a wrong.

She served: on the MCN Enterprise Board of Directors, four years on the MCN Gaming Operations Authority Board, one-and-a-half years as chair of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community as well as treasurer and sergeant-at-arms and was a member of the 2008 Constitution Convention Commission. She loved the University of Oklahoma Sooners and the Oklahoma City Thunder, always watching them on TV.

She is survived by her husband Eugene, nieces, nephews and countless friends she met in her life. She will be missed dearly and remembered with love by all. I miss her terribly. Until I see her again, I pray everyday so that she is at peace. -Eugene

Donations can be mwade to the American Cancer Society in her name.

JONAS ROBINSON

TULSA, Okla. — Jonas Earl 'Chebon' Robinson, a resident of Glenpool, passed from this life Jan. 28, 2016 in Tulsa at the age of 44. Chebon was born Aug. 6, 1971 in Tahlequah to his mother Hazel Robinson. Chebon grew up as a young boy in Tahlequah. He later lived in Muskogee and Tulsa as a young man, before moving to Glenpool approximately 12 years ago.

Chebon was a special young man that loved attending church at Solid Rock Church in Glenpool where he was a longtime member. He loved wrestling and coloring books and he was deeply loved by his family. He was a loving son, grandson, brother and uncle.

Chebon was preceded in death by his: grandmother, Fannie Barnett; mother, Hazel Robinson and sister, Alice Godfrey.

He is survived by his: sister, Valerie Candelario and husband Vincent of Glenpool; brother, Harvey Clayton, Jr. of Seminole; grandfather, Smiley Barnett of Dewar; niece, Jolie Williamson of Glenpool; nephews, Jared Barnett of Glenpool, Jesse Barnett of Glenpool, Christopher Corbell of Porum and Randall Corbell of Porum; great-nephew, Smiley James Williamson of Glenpool as well as numerous other extended family and many good friends.

A funeral for Chebon was held Feb. 2 at Hutchechuppa Indian Baptist Church with Todd Parker and Eugene Harjo officiating.

Interment followed immediately at Lewis Family Cemetery in Vernon under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta.

JASON WAQUIE

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. — Jason E. Waquie, a resident of Glenpool and former resident of Henryetta, passed from this life Jan. 9, 2016 in Sand Springs at the age of 38. Jason was born Aug. 4, 1977 in Okmulgee to Joe Waquie and Patricia Frye.

Jason grew up in the Henryetta area, attending Ryal School and later graduating from Henryetta High School, where he played on the basketball team. Following high school, Jason attended Haskell College in Lawrence, Kan., for approximately one year.

He later attended the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee and earned an associates degree there. Jason also attended and graduated from Tulsa Welding School where he learned the craft of welding. Jason worked for several years as a firefighter for the Mississippi Hot Shots and was employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a contract firefighter.

Jason was baptised at First Baptist Church of Dewar in 2008. Of the many things that brought him joy, time spent with his daughter Stormy was most important to him. Jason served as coach for several ball teams, ensuring that he spent quality time with his daughter. Jason was a good father and role model for Stormy.

He was a loving son, brother and father and a wonderful friend to many people.

He was preceded in death by his: grandfather, Harvey Frye; cousin, Damon Jefferies and two uncles, Robert Frye and Johnny Frye.

Jason is survived by his: eight-year-old daughter, Stormy Waquie of Henryetta; mother, Patricia Frye of Henryetta; father, Joe Waquie of Jemez Pueblo, N.M.; sister, Lindsey Waquie Stringfellow and husband, Brandon of Henryetta; niece, Haley Waquie Dill and husband, Clayton of Okmulgee; nephew, Ethan Waquie of Henryetta; aunts, Mary Frye of Glenpool, Fannie Frye of Henryetta, Freda Fields of Okmulgee and Carol Frye of Dewar; uncles, William Frye of Henryetta, Harbie Frye Jr. and wife, Cheryl of Guthrie, James Frye of Tulsa and Samuel Frye of Henryetta; numerous cousins, other extended family and many good friends.

Viewing for Jason was held Jan. 13 at Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta.

A wake service for Jason was held Jan. 13 at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church, south of Henryetta.

A funeral service for Jason was held Jan. 14 with James William, Roley Frye, Junior Taylor and John Wayne Tulsa officiating.

Interment followed immediately at Frye Family Cemetery, south of Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Eddie Munoz, Ethan Waquie, Craig Vaughn, Eddie Westmoreland, Allen Snow and John Frye Jr.

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- CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY: THE LEGAL CHALLENGES OF PROTECTING THE CULTURAL SIDE OF TRIBAL LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES — PROF. WALTER ECHO-HAWK, LEWIS & CLARK
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Freedman lecture set for Feb. 18

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Indian Freedmen Band has set a presentation by MCIFB President Ron Graham titled 'The Freedman Sage in the Dawes Commission' for Feb. 18 from 2-3 p.m. at the College of the Muscogee Nation Student Center rooms 107 and 108 in Okmulgee.

Indian Taco sale set for Feb. 26

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Big Cussetah Church has set an Indian taco sale for Feb. 26 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center, 2701 N. Miami Ave., Okmulgee, OK.

Dinners include a taco, dessert and drink and are $6 for dine-in and to go orders and $8 for delivery.

To order, call: 918-752-9715 or 918-752-5392.

Wild onion dinner set for Feb. 27

OAKHURST, Okla. — Indian Fellowship Baptist Church, 6130 S. 58th W. Ave., Oakhurst, OK, has set a wild onion dinner for Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Plates are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10 and under.

Revival set Feb. 28 - March 1

WELEETKA, Okla. — Weleetka United Methodist Fellowship Church, 543 E. 7th Street, has set a revival for Feb. 28 - March 1 starting at 7 p.m. nightly.

James Williams will present Feb. 28, Rev. Fred Lowe Feb. 29 and Merle Berryhill March 1.

Refreshments will be served after the services. For more information call Rev. David Dunson at: 918-752-7098.

Wild onion dinner set for March 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek Methodist Church has set their annual all you can eat wild onion dinner for March 5 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Holdenville Indian Community Center. Adults cost $10 and Children 10 and under cost $5.

MCN royalty meeting set March 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A meeting has been set for all female enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 14-24 who are interested in competing in the 2016 MCN Scholarship Pageant.

The meeting is set for March 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

For more information, contact Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

Day of Prayer event set April 2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A National Day of Prayer event is set April 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are invited. For more information call: 918-282-9381.

An update from Jr. Miss MCN Madeline Gouge



Madeline Gouge/*Jr. Miss MCN*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hesci, Madeline Gouge cv hocefkv tos. I am of the Beaver Clan and belong to the Tulsa Canadian Tribal Town. I am the 2015-2016 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the past seven months of my reign have been busy.

I've begun traveling to many places showing people who we are as Mvskoke people and have learned more about our culture as well. It has been exciting to share our culture as Jr. Miss.

I traveled to Washington, D.C., for a Unity Conference, which was one of my favorite trips because I met so many people and other tribal royalty.

They have helped me learn how to be a better representative of our Mvskoke people. Another amazing trip was traveling to Macon, Ga., to attend the Ocmulgee Indian Festival. I learned about and visited places in our homelands that taught me more about MCN culture. While traveling out of state was fun, I have also been throughout Oklahoma participating in many parades, the Council Oak Ceremony, Mvskoke Youth Fun Day and some stompdances.

When I first started my reign, I knew that I wanted to set my platform as 'Inspiration.' Knowing that this was going to be a challenging task, I believed in myself and that I'm able to do it. I want to go around and help kids, youth and even adults find their inspiration.

I believe that when you find what inspires you, you will have the motivation to accomplish anything that you put your mind to. I have always wanted to visit schools and talk to other students about my platform and I am still in the process of working on it. I would love to continue this effort well into the future!

I am so grateful for my strong family supporting me throughout the early part my reign. I also thank the Pageant Committee for making this experience incredible. They are truly a blessing.

I am very humbled to be able to represent Muscogee (Creek) Nation and am very excited to see what I have coming up for the next five months.

Mvto!

An update from Miss MCN Shannon Barnett



Shannon Barnett/*Miss MCN*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hesci, Shannon Barnett cv hocefkv tos. Vm eteliketv fuswvlke tos. Vm etvlwv Kialegee tos. I am the 2015-2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation and for the past seven months, it has been an honor to represent MCN.

Recently, I have had some great opportunities to travel and share our Mvskoke language and culture. I traveled to California and visited with citizens that live there.

Another great experience was traveling to Macon, Ga., to attend the Ocmulgee Indian Festival and learn more about Mvskoke history.

While I have had some great opportunities out of state, I have also kept busy attending many events in Oklahoma like the Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) Conference, MCN Cultural Day, Council Oak Ceremony, Mvskoke Youth Fun Day and stompdances.

When my reign started, I knew that throughout the year I wanted to be able to visit as many schools as possible to encourage our youth to learn and speak our Mvskoke language and help them get ready for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl.

I plan on continuing this throughout my reign and in the future, I want to keep teaching the Mvskoke language as an Indian Education teacher.

I am so thankful for my parents Kay and Daniel Barnett, my sister Brittany, the rest of my family and the Pageant Committee for working hard and making this a truly great experience. It has been an honor representing the MCN and I am excited to see what the next five months have in store for me.

Mvto!

Former MCN royalty sought

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant Committee is seeking former MCN royalty to take part in this year's Honoring Past Princesses event.

Those interested may contact Terrie Anderson at: 918-732-7699, tanderson@mcn-nsn.gov or Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

Child savings account grant event set Feb. 18

Mvskoke Loan Fund/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Loan Fund has received a grant from the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition to have 100 Muscogee (Creek) children up to eight-years-old open 529 college savings account and ONAC will deposit the first $100 for each account. Fifty children will receive piggy banks and 30 others will have a chance to do a drawing and have their artwork put into a calendar.

Those interested should attend the Movies at the Dome event 5 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. IDs and co-signature are required for adults and Social Security number for children.

Income eligibility applies.

Indigenous Outreach 2016 event set March 28 - April 1

Grover Wind/*Citizen Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2016 Indigenous Outreach event is set March 28 - April 1 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee and starts at 7 p.m. nightly.

Pastor John Parish will present March 28, Rev. Grover Wind March 29,

Pastor Fred Lowe March 30, Pastor Ellson Bennett March 31 and Brother Charles 'Son' McHenry April 1.

Praise and worship will be led March 28-30 by the Shipley family; special music presented by Melodie Wind, David Smith and Callie Bennett March 31 and Mvskoke singing led by Pastor Paul Fixico April 1.

For more information call Grover Wind at: 918-398-3393 or Fred Lowe at: 918-843-2265.

First time homebuyer class set for Feb. 20

Housing Department/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Program has scheduled a first time homebuyer education class to help prepare Native American families for the road to homeownership. The class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in various aspects of buying a home including: discovering if ownership is right for you, the loan process, finding the right house, budgeting and controlling your money, environmental, contract to closing, finalizing the deal and life as a homeowner.

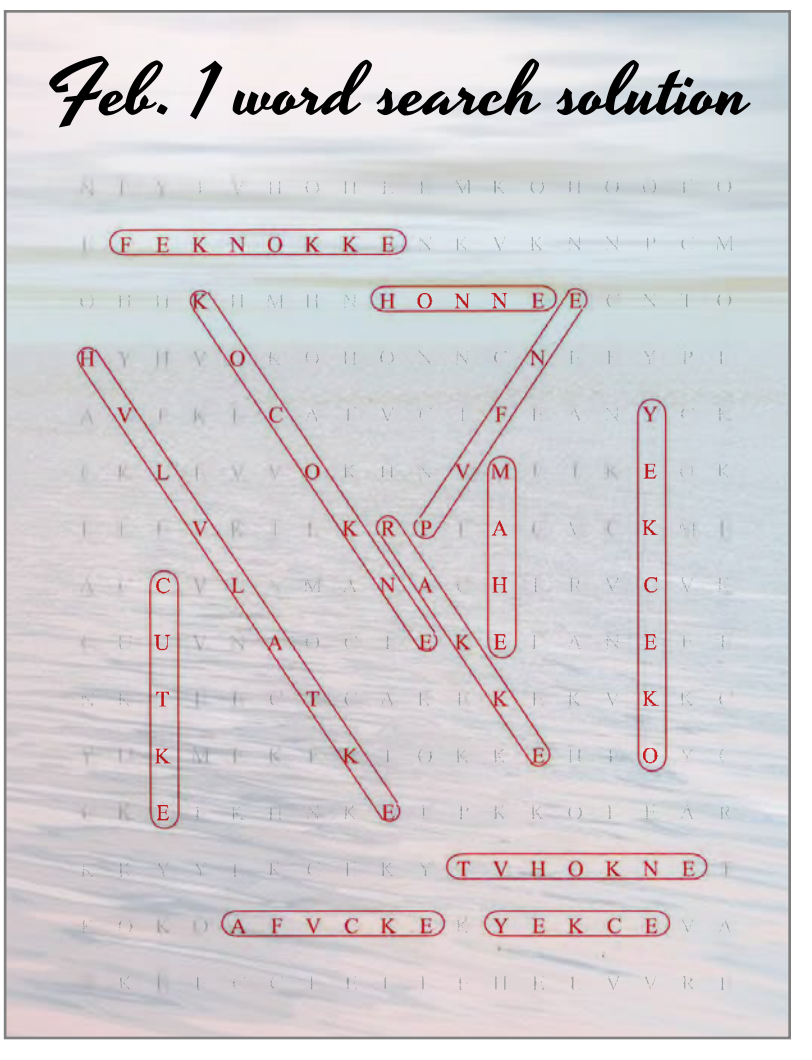
The class is set for 8 a.m., Feb. 20 on the second floor conference room of the Housing building at 2155 N. Wood Dr. in Okmulgee, OK. Call Jamie Nichols, available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. for pre-enrollment at: 918-549-2570.

OCMA Mvskoke language camp set June 6-10

MCN MLPP/*Media Release*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 6-10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association community center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) entering the seventh-12th grades and have transportation. For applications, which are due Feb. 29, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.



RIVER SPIRIT Casino

A topping out ceremony was held Jan. 29 to celebrate completion of concrete pouring up to the highest floor of the 27-story hotel tower as part of the Margaritaville-themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla.

Photos and spread by:
Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

Towns of the MCN Jurisdiction

Photos and spread by:
Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

Workout of the Month

Exercise to begin healthy lifestyle

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department, along with the 'Muscogee Nation News' would like to introduce the workout of the month.

The workouts chosen can be done in many places, whether at a gym or at home. These exercises can help a person take a step forward to living a healthier lifestyle.

TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson provided a description of this month's workout, the squat.

He explained why this is a good workout to start with.

"The squat actually works with the major muscle groups on the quads, hamstrings and glutes," Johnson said. "It also incorporates balance, overall strength and overall flexibility as well."

He said that people do not realize that they do squats everyday. For instance, you squat to sit in a chair and squat to get out of the chair. That person is engaging those muscles everyday.

"This is a great way to build muscularity in those legs for everyday use," Johnson said.

Modified Workout

Put a chair behind you so you can practice sitting in a chair and practice getting up.

If you are limited by your own mobility, or complete discomfort, go at your own pace but push yourself through this workout.

"Do the workouts and get moving."

— Rojer Johnson

If you would like to add resistance, put a five pound weight in your hands or if at home, a five pound bag of sugar.

WORKOUT

2-3 times a week | 3-4 sets of 10-15 reps



Step 1

Inhale on way down, exhale on the way up. Stand up straight with your feet shoulder width apart.



Step 2

Get in a good balance position with your hands across your chest.



Step 3

Release your knees and lower your body until your legs are parallel to the ground or until it becomes uncomfortable.



Step 4

Begin pressing and lifting yourself back up.

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

March 1, 2016 "Tasahcuce" Little Spring

Vol. 46, Issue 5



Citizen reflects during 100th birthday — Page 4

MCN Challenge Bowl photos — Pages 9-11

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

MNBE releases 13 years of profit, sales statements



CEO discusses business dealings, plans

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Around Indian Country, tribes have organized their own versions of business entities as sources of economic development outside of gaming.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation owns two primary business entities in order to generate business opportunities, a source of income for the Nation and create jobs for citizens.

One of these is Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

History

MNBE was created in 1999 as a U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) company to seek out federal government contracts for the purpose of economic development for the Nation.

The SBA 8(a) program assists small disadvantaged businesses such as minority-owned businesses in getting government contracts.

In 2003, MNBE purchased an information technology

MNBE ~ 6



Bridgehunter.com credited to Gene McCluney

A preservation effort is underway to save the historic Nuyaka Bridge located 14.5 miles west of Okmulgee, by relocating it to the City of Okmulgee as part of a community walking trail.

Effort underway to save, relocate Nuyaka Bridge

County, MCN officials detail plans, bridge significance

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee County District 2 Commissioner Bobby Hardridge is working to help save the historic Nuyaka Bridge, which is located around 14.5 miles west of Okmulgee.

"The Nuyaka Bridge has been an issue for many years, even long before I came here," Hardridge said. "The bridge has been inspected and re-inspected. It's been closed down several times."

Hardridge, who is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, said the bridge has been deemed to be in fracture critical condition.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, this is defined as, 'a steel member in tension, or with a tension element whose failure would probably cause the entire bridge to collapse.'

Hardridge said the bridge has been approved for replacement by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Okmulgee County District Attorney Rob Barris has authorized reconstruction of it within the City of Okmulgee.

"The bridge will be moved to the Okmulgee area and the coalition (Okmulgee County Wellness Coalition) will find a place for it and reconstruct that bridge as a walking trail or bike trail and it will continue to live on another 108 years," he said.

OCWC is a local organization that promotes wellness for Okmulgee citizens through civic action.

Okmulgee Main Street board member Chris Azbell said the plan is to relocate the bridge and incorporate it into a walking trail that would run south from Hawthorn Park through downtown Okmulgee and over Okmulgee Creek to the Okmulgee County YMCA and the trail at Okmulgee Municipal Park.

"…maybe expand it into educational signage about Nuyaka, about the tribal towns, about the history of Creek Nation, the Removal, all those things and then make that a path, more of like an educational path. The sky's the limit when the bridge is here," Azbell said.

OMS is a local organization that seeks to develop the downtown Okmulgee area.

Azbell said discussions are ongoing on how MCN might contribute to the effort, which is estimated to cost around $50,000.

"We're kind of in the preliminary stages of figuring out what our role is going to be, what the role of the county is going to be in terms of ponying up some of the funds," he said.

Azbell said MCN could potentially assist in several ways.

"It could be labor. There could be some monetary, where we actually chip in some funds and we could also do some in-kind contributions, provide trailer, equipment," he said.

He said a financial contribution from MCN might be explored through an appropriation by the MCN National Council or out of interest on federal funds from the MCN Tribal Transportation Program known as program income.

"We're looking to see if we have any type of program

Bridge ~ 2

Program celebrates anniversary with time capsule

Staff reflects on success

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program is celebrating 11 years of operation by burying a time capsule on their land in Henryetta.

The program, which began in 2005, placed in items such as pictures, calendars, business cards and a flash drive of documents and grants.

"We are going to bury that time capsule and in 11 more years, we will dig that up and reminisce on all that we have done," MCN RiP Manager Tony Fish said. "We figured this was a way to celebrate our accomplishments and achievements."

What was once considered a pilot program that had a staff of four, has become

Capsule ~ 2

Coming and Going with Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo/*Muscogee (Creek) citizen*

TULSA, Okla. — Here in the Mvskoke Nation, spring is announced by the arrival of wild onion dinners. Tribal citizens are already posting images of wild onion dinner plates on social media, which means somebody somewhere is already harvesting wild onions. Everyone is asking, where??

I already have Concharty on my calendar for March 26. For some of our citizens, the wild onion dinner trail is like the summer powwow or stompdance trail. I have a friend who tries to go to every dinner, sometimes two or even three in one day!

What is best about them, besides the stacked plates featuring wild onions with eggs, is seeing everyone and visiting. To see each other again

Joy ~ 5

At-large teams travel to participate in Challenge Bowl



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Coordinator for Indian Education at Norman Public Schools Lucyann Harjo and team sponsor Silas Wolf with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl high school division team, Norman Wotko Feb. 15 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

Norman represented at cultural education event

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With over 100 miles to drive, the Norman-based Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl teams do not care about distance when it comes to competing.

"The distance does not bother us at all," Coordinator for Indian Education at Norman Public Schools Lucyann Harjo said. "We have the students that want to be in this competition every year."

Travel ~ 3

Bridge

Continued from page 1

income associated with Federal Roads. I'm not sure if that qualifies," Azbell said.

Azbell oversees TTP as MCN secretary of the interior and would be official in this position if he is presented to the Council by the Executive Branch and confirmed by legislation.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Okmulgee District Rep. Del Beaver said he is open to supporting assistance for the project depending on what the proposal ends up being.

"You can't rule out everything but we definitely have to see what the numbers are total," he said. "… we have to be good neighbors with Okmulgee and like I said, special appropriations, it all depends on the amount of money but we definitely have to make sure our house is in order before we can start giving out large sums of money."

He explained his stance in the context of the recent MCN budget approval process.

"We just got to worry about what we have currently before we can start doing special appropriations," Beaver said.

Beaver is on the Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee, which he said would probably handle the initial introduction for many of the discussed proposals on this project.

Beaver said that he is open to supporting the use of program income to assist.

"That program, if they're willing to do that and work that out, then yeah, they can definitely bring it before the Council and see what the deal is," he said. "I'm open to something like that, definitely, we'd just have to see what the numbers are."

Beaver also said that he remembers possibly inspecting the bridge around eight or nine years ago when he worked for the MCN Environmental Services Department and that it received a similar structural assessment and argument for preservation from state entities.



Bridgehunter.com credited to Gene McCluney

A preservation effort is underway to save the historic Nuyaka Bridge located 14.5 miles west of Okmulgee, by relocating it to the City of Okmulgee as part of a community walking trail.

According to the ODOT Adopt-A-Bridge Program, the bridge was built in 1908.

"I have had relatives who are now gone who actually attended and went to school at the Nuyaka Mission," Hardridge said. "And I know they've crossed that bridge many times there."

Azbell, said he believes the bridge is the oldest in Oklahoma.

"If there's an older one, it's probably just by about a few months but I think it's the oldest bridge still standing," Azbell said.

Hardridge explained his personal enthusiasm for the effort.

"As far as being a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, I believe the significance of history plays a little heavier on my heart then maybe someone else," he said.



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Manager Tony Fish places items in a time capsule Feb. 4 at the program office in Henryetta, Okla., to commemorate 11 years of operation at RiP.

Capsule

Continued from page 1

one of the top entities in the nation that deals with helping ex-offenders readjust to life after incarceration.

Fish said RiP started from the ground up.

"When I say the ground up, we literally did not have pen or paper to write with," Fish said. "Tribal legislation passed for the Reintegration Program but it took another six to eight months for it to get off the ground."

At first, RiP provided ex-offenders with basic needs to survive in society.

Fish felt the program could do more and developed this vision from there.

"We started applying for grants and fortunately have been very successful in receiving grants," Fish said.

Fish said RiP has secured close to $6 million in grant money to date.

He said RiP has been the go-to program in their field for the U.S. Department of Justice.

"They look at our success and use us as a model for everyone else," Fish said. "They want other programs to follow in our footsteps."

RiP Senior Case Manager Sprint Williams said he has enjoyed his tenure with Reintegration.

"We look forward to continued success for our program," Williams said. "We started from a very small staff to a staff of 14. This program is going to do nothing but continue to grow and be a positive help for our citizens who are making a transition back to society."

The time capsule was placed next to a pecan tree on the property. Fish said no construction, including that of their transitional living facility set to open in July, will be allowed around the time capsule.

Citizen joins Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association



Submission

King sworn into MCNBA, makes partner at firm

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren King has been doing a lot within in the last six months to a year.

In July 2015, she helped win a case for the Quileute Tribe in the Northwest for their fishing rights and she was sworn in Jan. 26 to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association.

MCNBA is comprised of attorneys who are licensed to practice within the MCN jurisdiction.

King spoke about why she wanted to become a MCNBA member.

"My grandmother (Muscogee (Creek) veteran Anna King) passed away in 2014 and I still want to have my connections here in Oklahoma while I am living in Seattle," King said.

King said MCNBA has a roster that helps indigent defendants who are in need of counsel. Indigent counsel provides representation at low to no cost for those unable to afford an attorney.

"I would like to volunteer my time to represent indigent defendants when I can," King said. "When they need an attorney."

King filled out the necessary paperwork and took the oath to become an MCNBA member. King said she feels overwhelmed with everything going on but this is what she wants.

"When I was going to law school, I never thought that I would be doing this," King said. "I never thought my career would take this path and it is an amazing journey."

MCNBA President Geri Wisner is happy about King becoming a member of the association and how it is growing.

"It is a great thing that we have people who are finding the interest in practicing law within our jurisdiction like Miss King," Wisner said. "It is very important that our laws are recognized and that they continue by the attorneys who are a part of our association."

For more information on Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association, go to: www.creeksupremecourt.com/index.php/bar-assoc.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Citizen crowned Miss Native UCO



Submission

Johnson plans to raise diabetes awareness

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alayna Johnson was crowned 2015 Miss Native American for the University of Central Oklahoma Nov. 14, 2015 in Edmond.

"One of my main goals is just to try to be someone, someone can look up to," Johnson said.

Johnson is a 19-year-old freshman from Coweta, who graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah.

She chose to attend UCO because of the size and family atmosphere.

"It just kind of made everything feel like my second home," Johnson said.

Johnson is a member of the Sigma Phi Lambda sorority and the Native American Student Association.

She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing, and was influenced to enter the scholarship pageant by the previous Miss Native American UCO.

"I've never really stepped out of my comfort zone and I remember seeing her dance somewhere and it just really inspired me to try new things," Johnson said. "She just did a really great job of making me step up, and really try to be a leader around me and give a positive influence on people."

Johnson's platform is 'The Rising Epidemic of Type 2 Diabetes in the Native American community,' which stems from a personal concern.

"Diabetes runs in my family, so I just want to try to help prevent that," she said. "I can bring more awareness because just keeping a healthy lifestyle, eating healthy can all prevent that."

Johnson plans to further this mission by finishing her nursing degree and then pursuing a master's that specializes in pediatrics.

"I want to work with kids. I actually want to work in a Native American type facility," Johnson said. "I just want to give back to my community in that way."

She said her grandmother has had a significant influence on her life.

"She was a single mother and she really stepped up. She had to do a lot of really hard jobs," Johnson said. "She still works really hard for everything she does and it really inspired me to work hard for everything I do."

Alayna Johnson is a member of the Bear Clan, Koweta Ceremonial Ground and is the daughter of Charlene Johnson of Coweta and Anthony Johnson of Okmulgee.



Facebook

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kyle Settlemyer hiked the Appalachian Trail last summer.

Citizen completes the Appalachian Trail

Settlemyer shares joys, perils of adventure

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I think I've always had some wonderlust pent up. I'd always explore the hills around my house and eventually you just run out of woods to explore in your own backyard."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kyle Settlemyer shared memories that played into his decision to hike the Appalachian Trail last summer. He decided on this specific adventure while watching YouTube videos on lunch at work one day.

"Then I went home and researched it and I just saw that they go from Georgia to Maine, over the Appalachians, which are the oldest mountain range in North America so it just sounded like something I wanted to attempt," Settlemyer said.

Settlemyer explained that his ability to train for the trip was limited by the terrain in Oklahoma but he adapted to the challenges along the way.

"There are definitely highs and lows but before I left, I kind of made a resolve that I would only come back home if I was injured or if there was a family emergency and thank God none of those things happened," he said.

Settlemyer said the end of his journey from New Hampshire to Maine was the hardest and detailed some other rough points.

"…there was this one night where I was just camped out by myself in Connecticut where I was pretty much dead asleep and I kept hearing this crunching of leaves up to my tent and start hearing something sniff at my head," he said.

He said the approach he learned to deal with bears was to speak calmly and make them aware of your presence.

"But I was just frozen and I started slapping the side of my tent to get it to go away," Settlemyer said. "It ran off a couple of times but it came back. Then it finally stayed gone but I was on pins and needles that night."

Settlemyer described another instance where he was settling in for the evening, trying to get water and prepare food.

"So I was filling up and I slipped and slid towards the edge of the rock, which was probably a 25-foot drop and luckily I didn't have enough momentum to keep going off.

"That happened and I was pretty shaken up by it and then I got back to the shelter and I was cooking dinner and I turned my stove handle too hard and it just tipped over my entire diner," he said.

Settlemyer said he tried to brush off the day by watching the 'Game of Thrones' season finale while he had phone service but described the episode as, "just devastating."

At that point, Settlemyer said he tried to call it a day but his 20-degree rated sleeping bag in the middle of summer and the barely visible mosquitos gave him little comfort.

"The next morning we hitched into town and got McDonald's breakfast so it kind of evened out," he said.

Despite these hardships, Settlemyer seemed to remain optimistic and persistent.

"So I just kept going and when you're out there, it just becomes your home," he said. "That's why I think I never got totally homesick because I just let it become what I knew at the time."

He said this perception has stuck with him in several respects.

"I think just being content with less," Settlemyer said. "That stayed with me and you bond with people so much out there that you kind of see the value in human interaction because you kind of have to look out for each other out there."

Travel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Harjo said Norman was represented in the high school and middle school divisions this year and they have had an elementary team several times over their nine years of participation.

Team sponsor Silas Wolf said they are the only teams that travel to the competition from outside of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

"Our kids want to learn about their culture," Wolf said. "Learning about their culture goes further than the Challenge Bowl. What they know will stay with them."

Each task to prepare for the competition presents a 'challenge' for the high school team known as the Norman Wotko.

The City of Norman has two high schools, Norman North and Norman High that have citizens who are on the team. Students from both schools trust that those from the other are studying and preparing.

Some of the past and present Norman teams have or have had students who are not citizens.

"They compete just as hard as our Creeks do and they love learning about the culture, language and just the tribe overall," Wolf said.

Arianna Standing, one of the members who are not Muscogee (Creek), enjoys learning the Mvskoke language.

"I am Wichita, so I am learning my language right now also," Standing said. "Learning Creek is just as fun. It is tough because it is so different from my tribe's language but I enjoy learning something new."

Harjo said there are ample outlets in Norman to help students learn about Mvskoke culture.

"We have the resources that all the other schools have that participate in the Challenge Bowl," Harjo said. "We have our Creek speakers in Norman who help our students out. It is up to our students to put the work in and learn about the culture of our Creeks."

Wolf said Norman schools have classes that teach about all 39 tribes in the State of Oklahoma but he hopes that one day they will have some that specifically cover MCN.

The MCN Johnson O' Malley Program coordnates Challenge Bowl and can be reached at: 918-732-7843.

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Citizen reflects during 100th birthday



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Dolly and her children share years of experience together

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Josephine McHenry, also known as Dolly, sat in her home Feb. 2 with her children for this special occasion.

Birthdays are typically significant for families but this one was a particular milestone since they were celebrating Dolly's 100th.

"I was born not too far from where I live now," Dolly said. "It was on Memorial in Tulsa."

Most people are delivered in a hospital, however Dolly was born in her home.

Dolly ended up being the next to the youngest out of her siblings and she explained how her older sister played a part in her nickname.

"My sister was seventeen months older than me," Dolly said. "I was laying on the bed and when they called my older sister to see me, they asked who I was. They thought she would say little sister but instead she said 'Dolly.' "

From then on, the name stuck.

Her mother died in a flu epidemic when Dolly was two-years-old.

Her dad raised Dolly and her siblings.

Until the third grade, Dolly attended a school called Shellenbarger that was a mile away from her home.

She attended Eufaula Boarding School from fourth to eighth grade, which was an all-girls school at the time.

"I remember speaking Creek until I went to school," Dolly said. "Once I started school, we could not speak Creek. Now I cannot speak it at all."

From there, Dolly went to Haskell in Lawrence, Kan., where she stayed until she graduated.

"I either graduated or they shoved me out," she laughed.

She was selected to attend a school for nursing in Lawton but after a month, she returned home and did not go back.

"I was tired of school," Dolly said.

Dolly spoke about her husband, the late Walter McHenry.

They were married in 1936 and Dolly said she knew him almost her entire life.

"Our mothers were both childhood friends and kept in contact," Dolly said. "So we knew each other because of our mothers."

Dolly shared a memory that she said has stayed with her all these years.

As a child, she remembers attending a back-to-school event at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

"It was a very happy time for me," she said. "We played games that children would not know now. My grandchildren don't even know them."

She recalls the adults making homemade ice cream, cookies and cake for the children.

"I never did forget those days," Dolly said. "I don't think I could. Those were really happy times."

Dolly still lives on the allotted land that belonged to her late husband.

She said the roads to access their property used to be so bad, the mailman would get stuck and her husband would have to help him.

"My husband would get a team of people to help him," she said. "Nowadays if that were to happen, we would call a wrecker."

Dolly said that she always lived in the country but she was not what you would call a farm girl.

She always stayed and worked in the house.

Dolly said her hobbies are sleeping and piecing quilt.

She began piecing quilt together eight years ago at the age of 92.

Dolly said she will not stop working on a quilt until the design is done.

"There are times when I will stay up until two or three o'clock in the morning piecing quilts," she said. "I just want to finish it."

This process involves cutting out blocks of the material and sewing them together. Dolly said she does this by hand.

"To me, a real quilt is made by hand and not a machine," Dolly said.

Before Dolly got into this hobby, her children said she was a seamstress and did a lot of embroidery.

They said Dolly made all of their clothes when they were young.

"It was cheaper to sew than it was to buy," Dolly said. "So my kids were taken care of when it came to clothes. Unfortunately, I do not sew anymore because my eyesight is not as good as it use to be."

Her children are Ronald McHenry of Coweta, Chuck McHenry of Broken Arrow, Janice Imotichey of Tishomingo and Tina Boyce of Broken Arrow.

Janice said her mom does not seek recognition, so Dolly was surprised when she had media cover her birthday for a story.

"I was surprised when people come to talk to me about my birthday," Dolly said. " I had a lady from Coweta come to interview me and you ('Muscogee Nation News') come to talk to me."

The children said their mother would prepare full meals and they never started eating until their father came home from work.

"After our meal, we would sit around the table and talk, sometimes around two hours," Chuck said. "We try to do that now but after we eat, we get tired and have to go to sleep."

Ronald elaborated on how some things have changed for the family but some have not.

"Nowadays, it is not like it use to be. We might not get together for two or three months," Ronald said. "When we do, we picked up where we left off in our conversation."

Each of the children had a word to say about their mother.

Dolly looked at each of them through tears in her eyes when they spoke.

Ronald remembers her as appropriate.

He said in his view, his mom is a lady and not a woman.

"There is a difference," Ronald said. "Mom clothes were always clean and ironed. She was always appropriate."

Dolly said she could not have asked for better children. She said they drop everything when Dolly needs them.

Dolly is of the Nokuse (Bear) Clan and Kialegee Tribal Town.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

HVSE — Months

RVFO CUSE - January
HOTVLE HVSE - February
TASAHCUCE - March
TASAHCE RAKKO - April
KE HVSE - May
KVCO HVSE - June
HIYUCE - July
HIYO RAKKO - August
OTOWOSKUCE - September
OTOWOSKUCE RAKKO - October
EHOLE - November
RVFO RAKKO - December

O A R V F O C U S E L W K V C O H S
C F A K O E U K E T A S A H C U C E
H H O K E S T A R H O T V L E H V E
K O T A T H V H I Y O R A K K O U S
U T H R A O V A T H V E O S E O E A
T O O V S K K S K O E O O C E S E O
R W T F A K S K E L C O U C V R C A
V O V O H E A S O E H Y U H S K H Y
F S L C C H C H C E I K O O E A O A
O K E E E A E K O H S C H I Y U C E
R V H A R C C E V O V R V F O R A H
A R V I A C H K W K V W K C A H H C
K A S T K E S O I T A S A H C U C R
K K E S K O T O W O S K V R A K K O
O K K K O O K O V R Y C T E H E S S

BHS launches crisis text line

Services provided free to citizens

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Services introduced a free crisis text line for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and Native Americans residing within the MCN jurisdiction.

The text line is part of a national text line, staffed with trained counselors to address clients' needs. Counselors will be able to provide direct referrals to MCN services.

"The counselors are really trained in a vast variety of things and so that's why we thought that this would be a good fit because it not only targets preventing suicide but it also kind of captures all of the other issues that people might be dealing with," BHS Project Coordinator Miranda Carmen said.

Individuals suffering from suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety or eating disorders can text CREEK to 741-741 to access a live counselor to assist them.

"The stories that we heard in the community and the information that comes to us in Behavioral Health, there's definitely a need for young, middle aged, older," Carmen said.

Carmen said that they frequently have clients that are in crisis situations obtain services from BHS.

Carmen, who is also a therapist, currently has seven clients. She said BHS has approximately 15 therapists.

"I would say that depression is one of the main things that we see along with anxiety, and usually those can go hand-in-hand with having those (suicidal) thoughts," Carmen said. "And those thoughts can vary."

For confidentiality reasons, she could not point to specific cases of mental illness crisis, but said that the department saw a need for the crisis text service.

"We have recent incidents that are local to our jurisdiction and they are young people and they're young people in high schools," Carmen said. "Not just completions, but attempts, attempts are huge, overdoses."

Carmen reminded citizens to take statements regarding suicide and suicidal thoughts seriously.

"Never be afraid to ask, 'are you suicidal?' It does not make a person more suicidal," Carmen said.

BHS has services for prescription drug disposal and gun locks available to citizens by request.

BHS Suicide Prevention Services are funded by the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant provided through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association.

The crisis text service is paid for out of the suicide prevention grant funds. The grant runs out in 2019.

"Hopefully we will be able to continue," Carmen said.

For more information about BHS, call: 918-758-1930.

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The village of Whitesboro, N.Y., shared plans to change its seal after hearing criticism around the world.

The cartoonish symbol portrayed a white settler with his hands on the neck of a Native man said to depict an Oneida chief.

The Oneida Nation had been calling on the town to change the seal but residents said it merely depicted a friendly wrestling match between the two figures.

I've been through a few 'wrestling' encounters and I don't recall anyone with their hands on my neck like that 'being friendly.'

At the ritzy Amherst College in Massachusetts, trustees have voted to quit using 'Lord Jeff' as the school's unofficial mascot because of its negative history.

The mascot is named for 18th-century British Gen. Jeffery Amherst, known for suggesting that smallpox-infected blankets be given to Native Americans. Amherst was the commander of British forces in North America during the French and Indian War. An alumni-student group will be assembled to come up with a new mascot.

In Oklahoma City, famed ballerina Yvonne Chouteau has passed away at the age of 86. The mural, 'Flight of Spirit,' honors her and the four other famous Indian ballerinas at the State Capitol rotunda. (That might be enough reason to carefully re-hab the Capitol.)

A Shawnee-Cherokee woman, she was the epitome of a prima ballerina and was one of the American Indian ballerinas from Oklahoma who gained worldwide fame in the 20th century.

Along with Maria and Marjorie Tallchief, Rosella Hightower, and Moscelyne Larkin, Chouteau and the others gained international attention with their elegant artistry in several of the most famous international ballet companies. Chouteau was named as an 'Oklahoma Treasure.'

Beats 'twerking' any time.

Remember the massive cold spell that clobbered the Eastern part of the country this year? 'Indian Country Today' ran a number of jokes of the "It's So Cold…." variety.

One really good one: "It's so cold I saw a wannabe gangster with his pants pulled up."

Several news outlets report a plan being discussed in Russia to annoy U.S. officials and remind them to not to get so high and mighty when criticizing human rights abuses around the world.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is planning an idea for a memorial near the U.S. Embassy in Moscow dedicated to the, "genocide of the American Indians," according to the 'RIA News Agency.'

Valery Korovin, who supported the proposal said, "This monument must become the silent reproach to the modern American elites which had significantly deviated from the idealistic principles that were laid into the foundation of the American state."

Of course, the Russians can be reminded of their own treatment of the Chechens, Ingush, Crimean Tatars and other peoples of the former USSR that were sent to exile and the countries that fell under its rule after the "Great Patriotic War."

But don't expect to see the Russian monument yet. Is this a case of, "Your atrocities are worse than mine?" (Nyah, Nyah)

The U.S. political world is battling over who might fill the seat of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

One interesting name is the only Native American woman to serve as a U.S. District Court judge, Diane Humetewa. A Hopi woman, Humetewa was confirmed to the judgeship in May 2014. She has a distinguished career in her profession and would meet the priorities of both political parties.

Nice idea, huh?

Tafvmpuce — Wild onions! It's time for the wild onion dinners around Creek country. Watch and listen for announcements around Mvskoke Media for upcoming dinners. I especially like the 'all you can eat' variety, but they're mostly a long drive from my place. Darn it.

Enjoy your tafumpuce, I will. Hvtvm Cehecares (I will see you again).

Joy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

becomes especially poignant when you are older. When we acknowledge each other and speak, we share breath, and are reminded that we make a story together.

The Cherokee writer, Thomas King writes in his book 'The Truth About Stories, a Native Narrative,' "The truth about stories is that that's all we are."

This is so simply spoken, but so true—We have lost so many family members this winter.

Yet they continue to exist for us in our stories of them, and how they were and continue to be part of the stories we construct as we move forward.

The spring gives us hope that after loss, new growth emerges.

King mentions the Okanagan writer, storyteller, and community activist, Jeannette Armstrong.

Several of us helped her and her community in British Columbia years ago as they instituted the Enow'kin Centre, a school and center to teach language, culture and the arts.

Jeannette said, "Through my language, I understand that I am being spoken to, I'm not the one speaking. The words are coming from many tongues and mouths of Okanagan people and the land around them. I am a listener to the language's stories, and when my words form, I am merely retelling the same stories in different patterns."

I thought about this as my husband Owen and I took a tour of the Roman ruins, including the Colosseum and the Vatican in Rome, Italy. (We were there because I was invited to perform.)

As we walked through those storied places, we realized that what we were hearing was essentially the story of the western world, a story of world power, greed and the usurpation of the lands and resources of indigenous peoples.

Most of the world's gold and precious stones were stolen from Native lands and are still held in Vatican City. What is Roman, which borrowed heavily from Greece, is at the basis of everything European, and heavily influences what is American, from philosophical thought, cultural expression, to religion.

I keep thinking about Jeannette's words and the stories we are telling ourselves and our children — in what language(s), and are they even telling stories at all?

I keep thinking about the prevailing influence of Rome, and the world we are handing over to our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Do they know our stories? How did we get here? Where are we going, and what does it mean?

And do they know how are they connected to the plants, stars, the earth, the elements, creatures, and the songs and stories that came to us from them? Do we know?

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions.
$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day ($200 total),
or $10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916



Native News Today

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise CEO Woody Anderson gave an overview of MNBE since it opened 13 years ago along with profits and sales statements.

MNBE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

company for $2.5 million.

MNBE graduated from the 8(a) program in 2011 and has worked to develop other 8(a) companies such as Muscogee International LLC and a new holding company, Muscogee Nation Businesses LLC to help organize other companies under as they are formed.

According to information provided by MNBE, both MI and MNB were created and funded by MNBE for over $2 million.

MNBE consistently averages 83 employees, 48 percent of which are Native American, located throughout the world, with an average total payroll of $4.5 million.

According to information provided by MNBE, the company has been debt free since 2013.

MNBE CEO Woody Anderson said since it was formed, MNBE was appropriated approximately $9.43 million from MCN for the purchase of businesses, debt payoffs, collateral funds as well as fiscal year 2003 and 2004 operating budgets.

The business has not received funds from MCN since 2008.

"Because we budget ourself. All the money we operate ourselves," Anderson said. "There's no money given to us on an annual basis so everything we do is produced by us."

Anderson has served as CEO since September 2007.

Forensic Audit

MNBE was one of the entities evaluated in the forensic audit, initiated by the MCN National Council and completed in 2015.

The audit discussed MNBE expenses such as meals, alcohol and costs that may have been greater than those allowed by MCN policies.

'Our analysis of credit card activity by MNBE related to travel, entertainment, and other related business expenditure indicates that a lack of policies at MNBE may be leading to expenditures by MNBE employees that is different from employees of the Nation and may not have been in compliance with comparable Nation policies and procedures.

'To be clear, we did not find that MNBE employees were out of compliance, rather we found that MNBE is lacking policies comparable to the Nation,' the audit states.

Anderson said there is a difference between the business entity MNBE and governmental entity MCN, and each of their expenditures.

"So, any time that we find anything that we see that is an issue… is that you look at those audit findings and then you put things in place to help strengthen anything that's there," he said.

Government Contracting

In a letter dated Nov. 25, 2015 from U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko to U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Sopko requests information on U.S. Department of Defense Task Force for Business and Stability Operations contracts.

'… today I am writing to request information concerning TFBSO's decision to spend nearly $150 million, amounting to nearly 20 percent of its budget, on private housing and private security guards for its U.S. government employees in Afghanistan, rather than live on U.S. military bases.'

Sopko states in that in SIGAR's review of expenditures, TFBSO rented specially furnished, private villas and were provided with 24-hour security and food service and questioned why TFBSO was not housed on military facilities in Afghanistan to save on costs.

A contract with MNBE was specifically called into question.

'TFBSO paid the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) over $40 million from 2009 to 2014 to provide "transportation and personal protection from terrorist or criminal attack to [TFBSO] personnel visiting/traveling to and from project worksites." MNBE also monitored the entrance to all TFBSO accommodations to ensure the safety and security of TFBSO personnel and guests.'

The letter also states that MNBE provided accommodations equivalent to a three-star level, 24-hour meal and snack service, housekeeping, cultural advisors, translators and secure low profile transportation.

It goes on to request additional information regarding how the contractors were chosen and a cost-benefit analysis from the department to justify the price of the contracts.

A report from SIGAR to Congress dated March 18, 2015 regarding DOD contracts and spending from 2002-2014, stated that TFBSO contracts were aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan and encouraging private investment and economic development.

DOD spent approximately $696 million for TFBSO between 2010-2013. MNBE was one of the top 10 recipients of those funds with an estimated $52 million in contracts.

"Well, I think you have to remember that's the federal government deciding what their scope is. We don't determine that," Anderson said. "All we do is respond to it."

He said that MNBE responds to contracts and provides the requested service, and depends on the requestor to define what their needs are. When it comes to evaluating contracts, Anderson said that MNBE evaluates which are a good fit for their company.

According to www.usaspending.gov, MNBE has not been awarded any federal contracts for FY 2016.

Since 2010, the website indicates that MNBE was awarded approximately $950.42 million in federal contracts with entities such as DOD and the U.S. Department of State.

(See Figure 1.)

According to www.usaspending.gov, most of the services provided by MNBE to DOD in these contracts are support, management, professional and accounting services as well as telecommunications and security.

Financials

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested financial statements from MNBE for 2015. 'MNN' was provided with sales and profit information for 2003-2015 ***(See Figures 2 and 3.)*** as well as contributions to MCN for 2003-2015.

All financial information provided from MNBE is from their audited reports with the exception of financial information for 2015.

Anderson said independent auditors have not completed their yearly audit of MNBE to verify the financials for 2015.

According to the information provided, MNBE had approximately $16.446 million in sales for 2015, and a loss after business expenses of $954,589.

MNBE had approximately $36.251 million in sales for 2014, and a loss after business expenses of $1.603 million.

For the 13 years of sales and profit information provided, MNBE has shown an end-of-

MNBE - 7

FIGURE 1 - FEDERAL CONTRACTS AWARDED

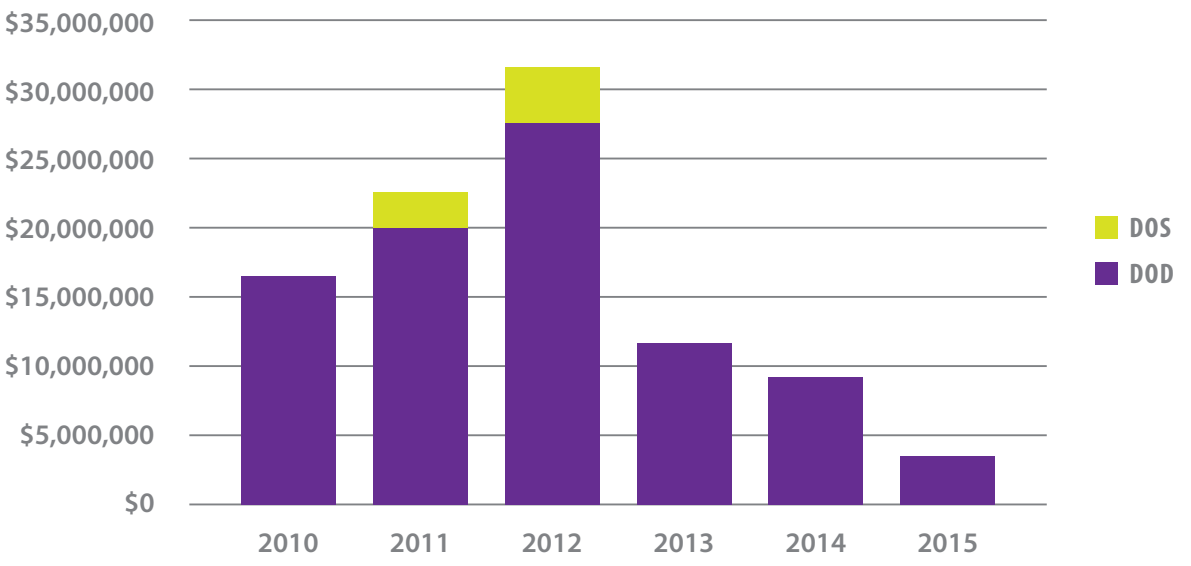


FIGURE 2 - SALES & PROFIT (2003–2009)

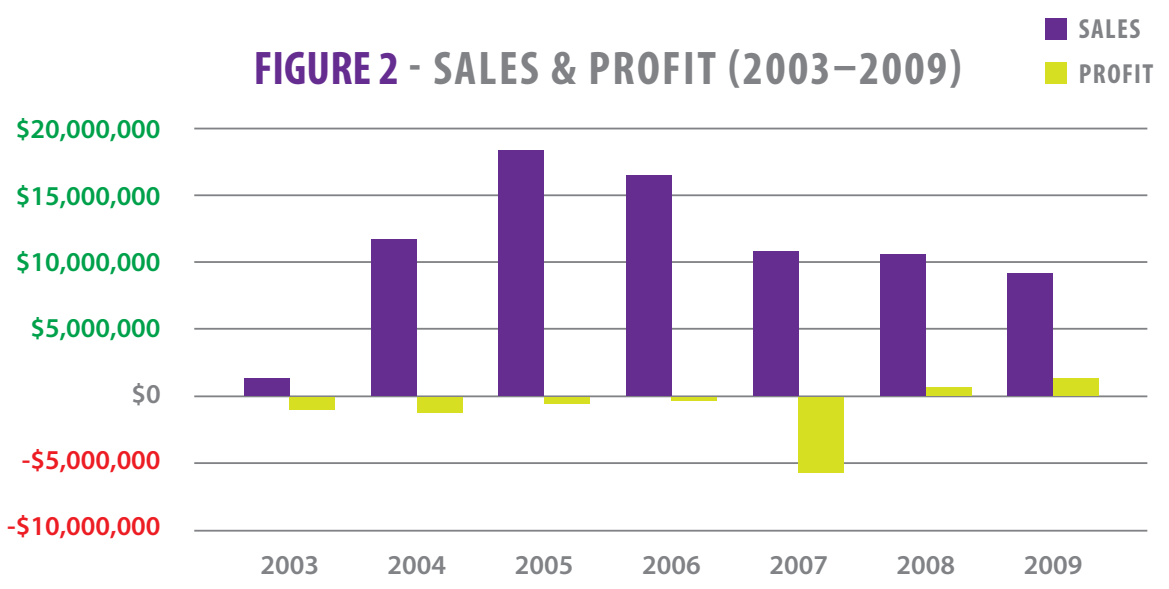
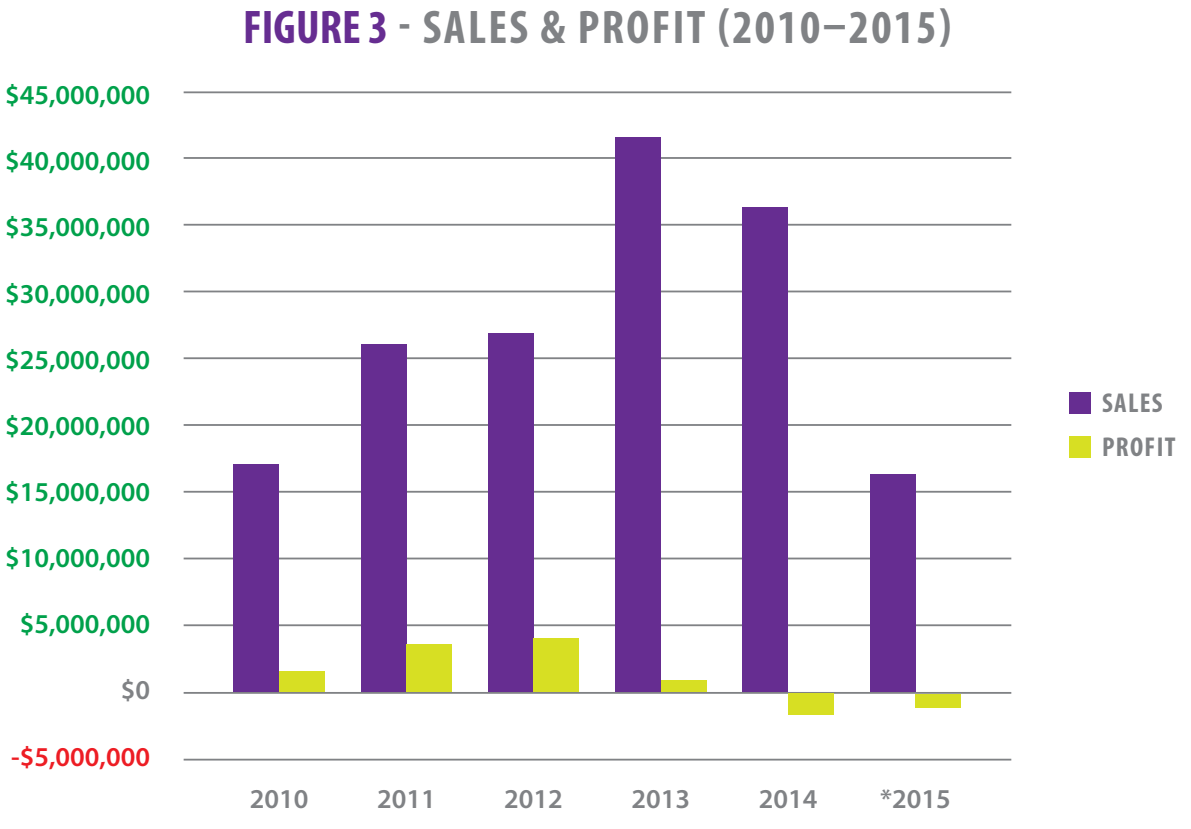


FIGURE 3 - SALES & PROFIT (2010–2015)



*Financial information for the year 2015 has not been audited.

MNBE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

year profit for six.

Anderson commented on the loss for 2014.

"The loss for 2014 reflects the closing out of several of our contracts through our Professional Services Division and the delay of several projects for the Life Safety and Security Group," Anderson said. "We also had losses at the (Okmulgee) Golf Course and Stone Blade of approximately $550,000."

MNBE closed Stone Blade Jan. 26, 2015 after two years in business. Anderson said in a previous 'MNN' story that the business was not profitable since it opened.

The restaurant and golf course were located in the old Okmulgee Country Club. MCN purchased the building and 159-acre golf course in May 2012 for $3.6 million.

Anderson explained in the previous story that MNBE was given the property to operate on a temporary basis after it was purchased. He said the property was given back to the Nation to determine its best use.

Anderson estimated at the time the restaurant was closed down, that MNBE would save $25,000-$30,000 a month.

In a Jan. 21 interview with 'Mvskoke Radio,' MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said his administration is evaluating the property.

"We've got at least three different proposals that are being floated around now on the use of that property," Floyd said. "I think we'll be sending something to the National Council within the next 30 to 45 days where we feel that we should be with that property in its future use."

Anderson said MNBE invested over $1 million into the Okmulgee Country Club for employee salaries and upkeep of the facility.

"So these are dollars that we have invested back within Creek Nation or some form of Creek Nation," he said. "So there's more to what we do than you see on those financials."

MNBE is also a development agent for Rex's Chicken. The development agreement is for 36 states.

Anderson said that the company is looking to build restaurants within the MCN jurisdiction.

"We're actually wanting to do that probably first in Tulsa, get that set," he said.

MNBE is working with a company to develop leads for the restaurants both internationally and in the U.S.

"But the key for us is getting our operation going here locally for us so we can use that as a testing ground and also to bring those who are interested in franchises to our location to help train them also," Anderson said. "So we're very excited about that."

MNBE took over operation of the MCN travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee during the past administration.

"We feel like they're doing well," Anderson said. "Whenever we took those over, they were handed over to us and at the time, they weren't doing well. And so, they're profitable."

Anderson said they have planned for competition from the QuikTrip in Muskogee, as well as the Love's Travel Stop that is under construction in Okmulgee.

"You're always going to have competition," he said.

Anderson said MNBE has plans in the works to update the travel plazas.

Anderson also discussed the fuel tax revenue that ownership and operation of the travel plazas brings the tribe.

According to documents available through the Oklahoma Secretary of State's website, MCN accepted the state's offer of a motor fuels contract in late 1997.

The document shows MCN accepted the compact outlined in Oklahoma Statute 68, Section 500.63 through TR 97-19.

The Oklahoma statute refunds a portion of the motor fuel tax collected by the state quarterly to tribes who participate in the agreement.

Anderson estimated that MCN has received approximately $37 million returned in fuel tax since the Nation accepted the agreement.

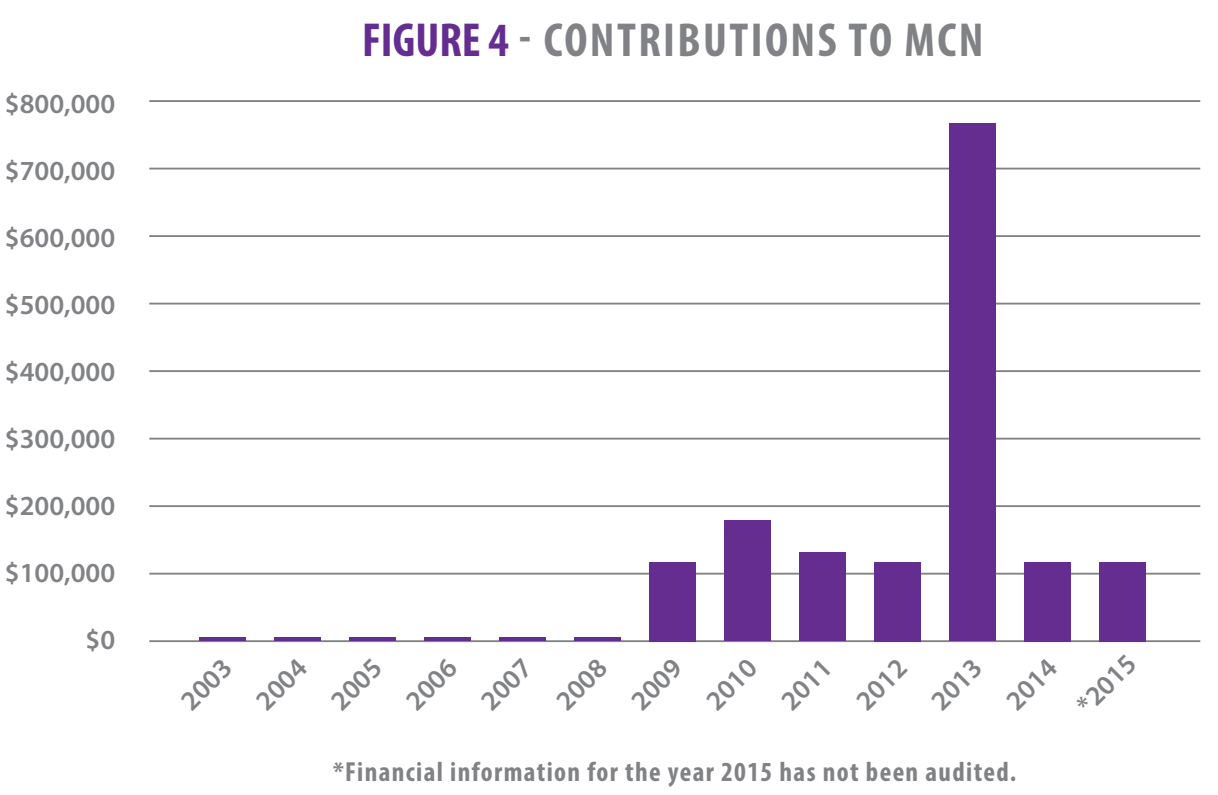
"So the travel plazas are very important to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and probably the development of more of those operations for us," he said.

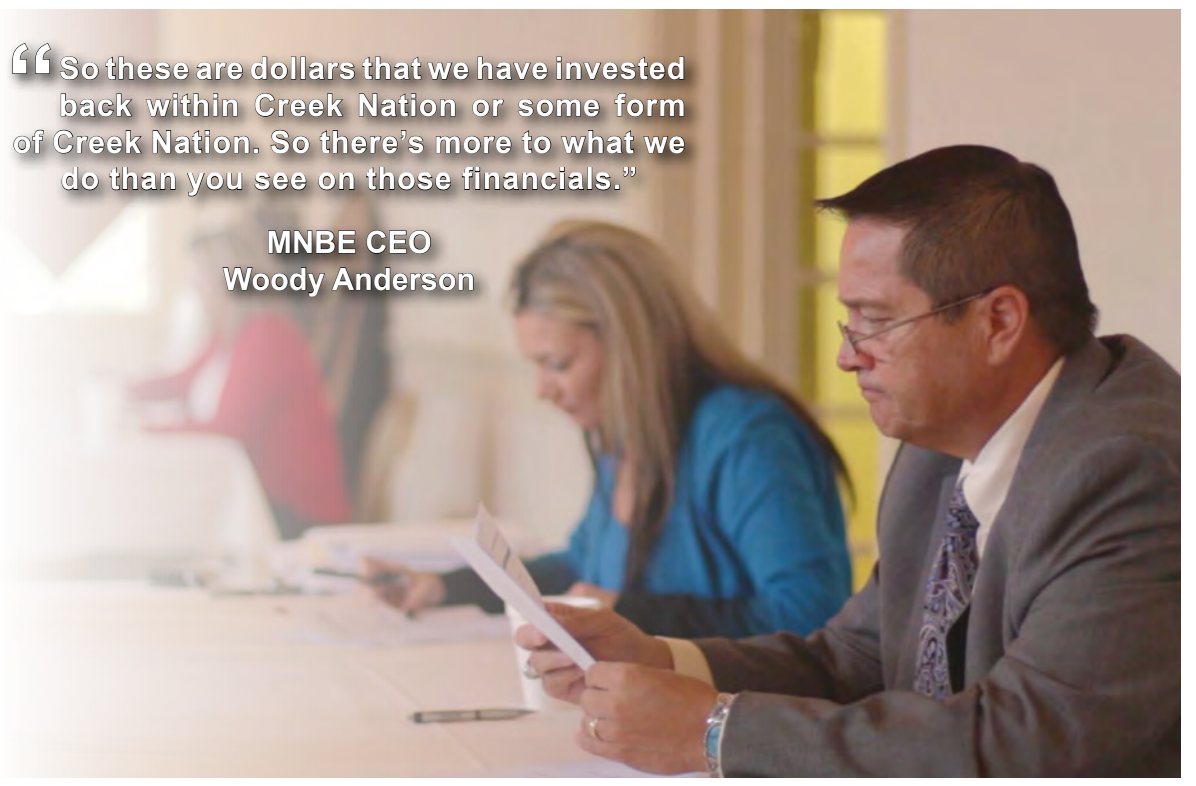
Anderson said the fuel tax money is given directly to the Nation and not MNBE.

Anderson said employees were given a bonus this year that mirrored the incentive bonus given to MCN employees.

Full-time employees received $500, and part-time employees received $250 at the end of 2015.

"In past years we've been given bonuses, but that was set up by the board and it was based on a percentage and it was based on our performance," Anderson said. "For the guys this year, we followed what the tribe was doing to make sure our employees were taken care of, but that was it."





Native News Today

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise CEO Woody Anderson gave an overview of MNBE since it opened 13 years ago along with profits and sales statements.

Reporting

Floyd said he was pleased with the Jan. 21 presentations to the National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee from MCN economic development entities.

"But I think in the past, citizens hadn't had that information and several of them made comments that, 'This is our money. We have a right to know,' " Floyd said. "In return, I feel my obligations as the principal chief is to work with both of them so that we have a relationship."

Floyd said he plans to reflect citizens' requests and give guidance to MCN economic development entities so that the companies take into account the views and needs of citizens in the decision-making process.

MNBE reports quarterly to the Council during the BFJ session. Meeting agendas are available at the Council website at: www.mcnnc.com.

Typically these meetings are held in executive session.

"… And the reason we did that is because those deal with the Nation's financials," Council Speaker Lucian Tiger said. "And that's definitely something that we don't want to everyone, but if you're a Creek citizen, you're more than welcome to stay."

Mvskoke Media is unable to report items discussed in executive session.

Contributions

Since 2009, MNBE has given an annual contribution of earnings to MCN ranging from $111,922-$761,253.

(See Figure 4.)

The company has given a contribution of $120,000 for each of the past two years.

Anderson explained that the financial data showing contributions to MCN does not include indirect contributions to the Nation and its citizens.

"MNBE has provided assistance in the past either through an Emergency Assistance Program or sponsorships to help churches, ceremonial ground, youth sports teams, citizens in need, tribal program initiatives such as toy drives, Angel Trees, Family Violence Prevention and the National Council Annual Thanksgiving Food Program, etc.," Anderson said.

He said that MNBE has provided assistance and sponsorships totaling $92,179 since 2007.

He said the revenue brought in by MNBE is never going to match gaming, but that they have created job opportunities and made contributions that would help citizens.

For more information about MNBE call: 918-752-3150 or visit: www.mnbe.com

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Psalms 25:21

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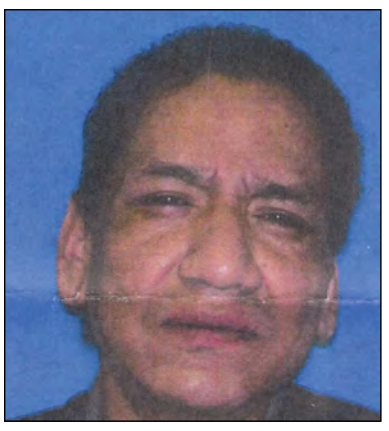




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ETHAN BIGPOND



BRISTOW, Okla. — Ethan Allen Bigpond Jr. 'Fatman' was born Jan. 6, 1970 to Maureen and Ethan Bigpond, in Lawton. He departed this life Nov. 12, 2015 at the age of 45 years, 10 months and six days. After graduating high school, Ethan went on to gain some college credits, attending Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., The Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, N.M., and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Glenpool had been home for the last eight years. In 2007, Ethan married the love of his life Dru. They enjoyed nearly three years together, until her passing in 2009. He worked as a machinist but found time for his passion of artwork and wood sculpting, two of his greatest skills. Ethan could never pass up a chance to go to the casino. It's been said that he had a bit of a lucky streak from time to time. The track could catch his eye, as he was also a fan of horse racing.

He is survived by his: son, Corey Bigpond of Louisiana; father, Ethan Bigpond Sr. of Glenpool; brothers, Scott Bigpond of Louisiana and Gibson Bigpond of Glenpool and sisters, Kogee Bigpond of Sapulpa, Kathy Bigpond of Nevada and Valencia Bigpond of Bristow. He is preceded in death by his mother, Maureen and wife, Dru.

Pallbearers were: Nolan Billiot, Charlie Harragarra, Stacie Becerra, Dean Little Head, David Bigpond Jr. and Lamont Brown.

Interment was at Magnolia Memorial Gardens in Bristow. Wake services were held Nov. 14, 2015, at the Hutchins Maples Matherly Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral services were Nov. 15, 2015, also at the funeral chapel with Wendell Johnson and Rev. Andrew Johnson officiating.

Condolences may be made to the family at: www.hutchinsmaplesfuneralhome.com.

COLLEEN JONES

YUKON, Okla. — Colleen Morrison Jones born Aug. 21, 1937 in Lena to John and Allie Morrison, deceased.

In 1952, she moved to Dustin where she met the love of her life, James D. Jones. Born of the marriage are two daughters Vicki Jones Beals and Robin Jones Phillips.

Collene and her family lived in various locations as part of their career in the military making many friends which she cherished. After retirement from the military, Collene and her family moved back to Okmulgee where she worked at the Okmulgee Daycare for years. Afterwards, she worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a Community Health representative. Collene and James moved to Dustin where they became members of the Dustin Baptist Church. Collene enjoined living on the farm taking care of her animals. Collene was blessed with three grandsons, Dr. Bryan Beals, Robbie Crosier and Charles Beals and four granddaughters, Brooklyn, Emily and Alexis Beals and Cora Crosier.

Collene went to heaven in Yukon, leaving behind her: husband of 61 years; daughter, Vicki and son-in-law, Bobby Beals of Watonga; daughter, Robin and son-in-law, Robert Phillips of Bartlesville; grandsons, Dr. Bryan Beals and wife, Dr. Jenny Beals and their children, Brooklyn, Emily, and Alexis of Lawton; Robbie Crosier and wife, Mallory Crosier and their daughter, Cora of Edmond and Charles Beals and his fiancé, Elizabeth Baldwin of Kansas City. She is survived by her: sisters, Estaline McGuire of Eufaula and Charlene Thompson of Schulter and their families.

In lieu for flowers, donations can be made in her honor to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Graveside services to celebrate her life were held Feb. 8 at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Weleetka under the direction of the Rogers Funeral Home.

ANN VANDAMME



She has gone to join her loved ones and her Savior.

AMARILLO, Texas — Ann was one of 14 children born to Leah and Jess Hawkins in Okemah. She grew up playing on her father's softball teams, graduated from Duke High School in 1961. Lettering in basketball, graduated from Amarillo College as a child-care assistant in 1992.

She worked for San Jacinto Elementary where she was very active in her grandchildren's educations. Ann a very devout Christian was director of Children's Ministry, drove the church van and worked for the food pantry until health issues forced her to retire. She was known for always helping out in a time of need, a member of the Southern Baptist Women's group, enjoyed gospel music, collecting angels and crosses, loving on her two dogs and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her: children, Mary Van Damme and Chris L. Van Damme Sr.; grandchildren, Brian Van Damme Sr., Christy Van-Damme and Chistopher Van Damme Jr.; great-grandchildren, Kortni, Konnor and Brian Jr., all of Amarillo, Texas; brother, Will Hawkins of Okmulgee; sisters, Jean Gallagher of Altus, June Babb of Muskogee, Sarah Behring of San Benito, Texas and Winnie Woods of Amarillo, Texas and Esther Louise Marris of Gatesville, Texas; a host of nieces and nephews; a few great-nieces and nephews and lots of friends.

A Memorial Service will be held 2 p.m., March 5 at Beacon Baptist Church 417 S. McMasters, Amarillo, Texas.

The family wishes to extend an invitation to anyone whose life was touched by our loved one to attend and celebrate her memories with us.

MVTO

On behalf of the Family of Nancy Jo Harry, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for all of the thoughts, prayers and kind words we received during our time of loss. A very special thank you to: the cooks who prepared each meal, each preacher who provided words of comfort, the members and preacher of Morning Star Church, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Green Hill Funeral Home for all of their acts of kindness. Thank you for continuing to keep our family in your thoughts and prayers.

Wild onion dinner set for March 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek Methodist Church has set their annual all you can eat wild onion dinner for March 5 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Holdenville Indian Community Center. Adults cost $10 and Children 10 and under cost $5.

Revival set for March 3-5

SAPULPA, Okla. — A revival has been set March 3-4 starting at 7 p.m. nightly and the Women of Destiny Conference is set for March 5 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., both at Covenant Harvest Ministries, 722 N. Hodge in Sapulpa.

Everyone is invited to a powerful time of praise and worship. For more information or to RSVP for the conference, call: 918-282-9381.

Wild onion dinner set for March 19

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church, 8815 W. 101st St. in Tulsa has set a wild onion dinner for March 19.

Dinners are $9 for adults and $7 for children.

MCN royalty meeting set March 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A meeting has been set for all female enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 14-24 who are interested in competing in the 2016 MCN Scholarship Pageant. The meeting is set for March 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee. For more information, cowntact Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

Former MCN royalty sought

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant Committee is seeking former MCN royalty to take part in this year's Honoring Past Princesses event. Those interested may contact Terrie Anderson at: 918-732-7699, tanderson@mcn-nsn.gov or Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

Wild onion dinner set for March 19

SAPULPA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 19 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Sapulpa Community Center to benefit the Little Cussetah Baptist Church youth group.

Plates are $10 and include onions, salt pork, fry bread, ham and beans, corn, dessert and a drink.

For more information call Chris Tiger at: 918-370-7570.

Powwow set April 2

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The 11th annual Azalea Powwow is set April 2 and will be hosted by Fife Indian United Methodist Church at the Civic Center Arena in Muskogee.

The event will begin with a gourd dance at 2 p.m., dinner is at 5 p.m. and grand entry is at 7 p.m.

Admission is $3 and free for children six and under.

For information including more events and vendor details call: 918-816-1498.

Day of Prayer event set April 2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A National Day of Prayer event is set April 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are invited. For more information call: 918-282-9381.

Wild onion dinner set April 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church has set an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner for April 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinners are $10 for adults and carry out and $5 for children 12 and under.

For more information call Karen King at: 918-652-5356.



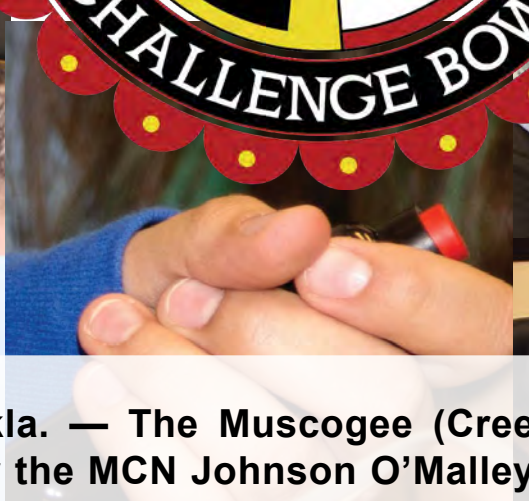
















OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl, hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program, kicked off Feb. 5 with the high school division at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

First place was awarded to Glenpool West, Glenpool East took second, Beggs Gold won third and Preston Pride received the Wilbur Gouge Honors Award.

Photos and spread by: Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist













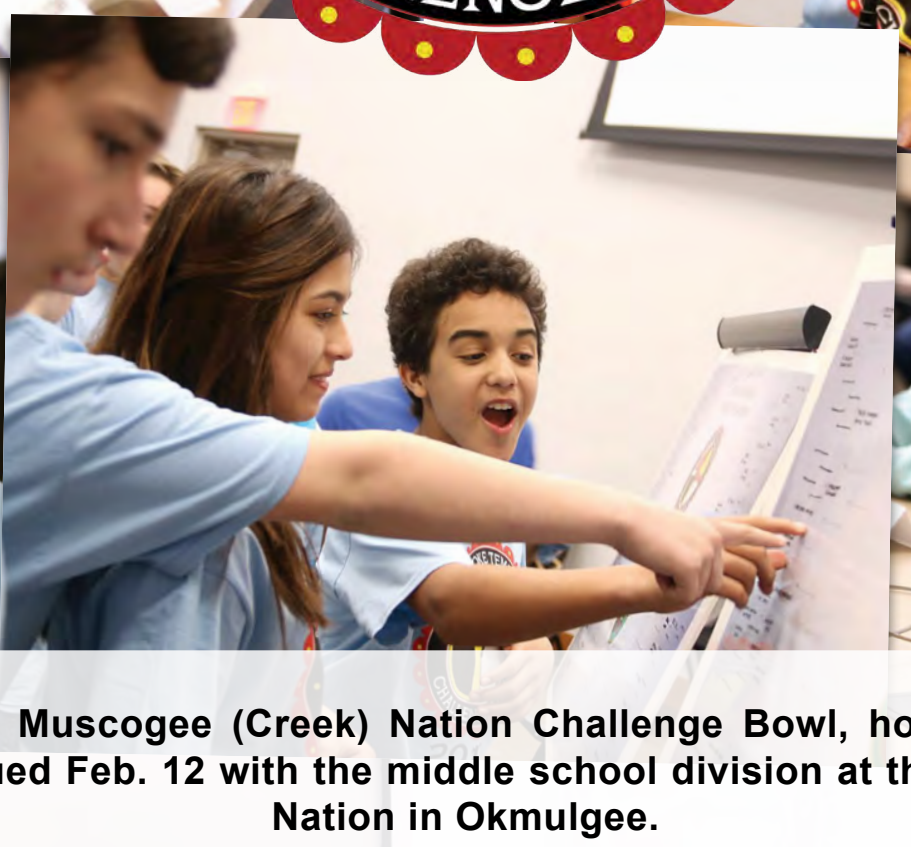














OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl, hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program, continued Feb. 12 with the middle school division at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

First place was awarded to Glenpool Totkv, Beggs No Names took second, Glenpool Locv won third and Beggs Gold received the Wilbur Gouge Honors Award.

Photos and spread by: Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist





OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl, hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program, finished Feb. 19 with the elementary school division at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

First place was awarded to Glenpool Fuswv, Glenpool Totkv took second, Beggs White won third and Glenpool Totkv also received the Wilbur Gouge Honors Award.

Photos and spread by: Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

















Workout of the Month

"The whole thing to this is progression...Work yourself up to where you can do a regular pushup."

— MCN Tourism and Recreation Department, Recreation Manager Johnson

Workout

2-3 times a week
4 sets of
10-15 reps

Exercise to increase stabilization, core strength

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department and the 'Muscogee Nation News' has teamed up again to bring you the workout of the month.

Along with the previous workout, this one can be done whether you are at the gym or at home. All you need is space.

TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson provides a description of this month's workout, the pushup.

"This workout is to help provide core stability and hypertrophy inside the chest, arms and shoulders," Johnson said.

Hypertrophy is an increase in size of muscles through working out. The pushup helps with stabilization of the upper torso as well as the whole body. With this workout, it will help you to learn to stabilize yourself in motion.

This workout has a modified way of doing it so if a person has just started, they will be able to work their way up to a regular pushup.

"The same factors come into play," Johnson said. "It is a great baby step working towards the regular pushup."

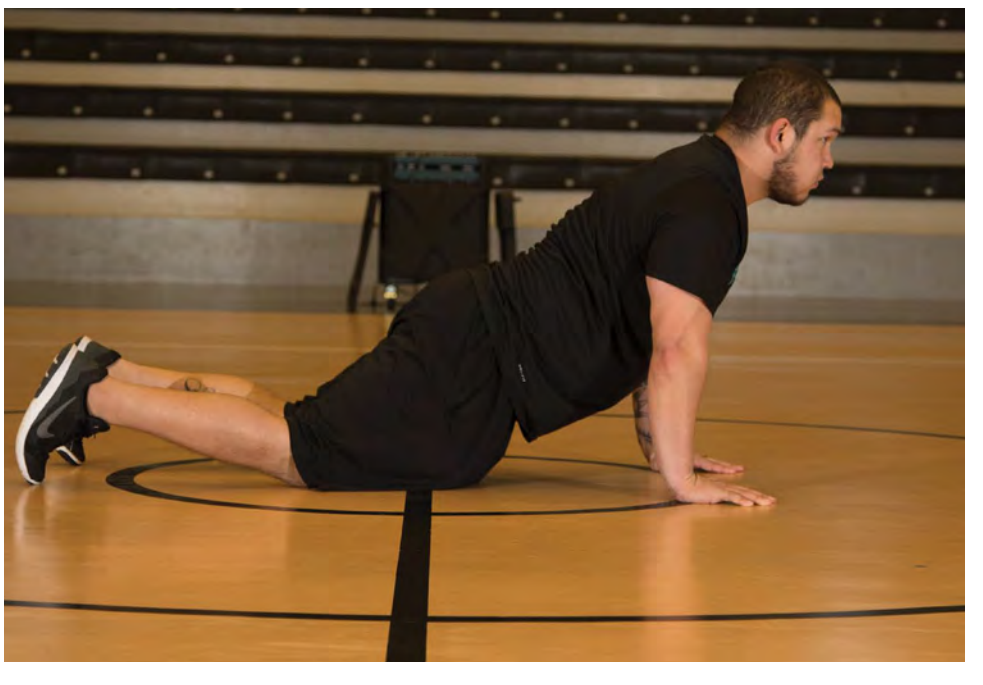
Modified Version

Johnson said if you feel you cannot do it the regular way, there is nothing wrong with using the modified version. It has the same components and movement.



Step 1 —

Make sure your hands are outside your chest and not above your shoulders. Also, make sure your feet are hip to shoulder width apart.



Step 1 —

Place your knees on the ground. Keep your hands shoulder width apart.



Step 2 —

Lower yourself close to the floor without your body touching the floor.



Step 2 —

Lower yourself close to the floor without touching your knees.



Step 3 —

Push yourself away from the floor.



Step 3 —

Push yourself away from the floor, raising your body only from the knees up.

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

March 15, 2016 "Tasahcuce" Little Spring

Vol. 46, Issue 6

26th Trail of Hope sobriety conference set — Page 2

Lewis tries his hand, feet at combat— Page 9



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) elder Sam Proctor told about his life during a visit to his home in Okmulgee, Okla. Proctor was recognized as the 2016 American Indian Festival of Words Circle of Honor inductee March 5 by the Tulsa City-County Library Resource Center.

Sam Proctor receives Circle of Honor award

Elder shares knowledge and stories

Amanda Rutland/*Media Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a quiet unassuming apartment on a chilly morning in Okmulgee, Muscogee (Creek) elder and Tullahassee Wvkokaye Ceremonial Ground leader Sam Proctor shared his thoughts and stories.

Proctor began by sharing his grandfather's account of Removal.

"He said, 'When we left Eufaula, Alabama the peaches were blooming when we left and then when we got to Oklahoma it was wild onion picking time,' " Proctor said.

Proctor asked in a playful tone, "Have you ever heard of Sam Proctor's grandpa's name?"

He went on to explain that his grandfather was called Creek Beaver.

"The Cherokees were the ones that gave him that name because he was Beaver Clan and they couldn't pronounce beaver in Creek. Beaver in Creek, you say echasw."

Proctor shared his mother's teachings.

"My momma said, 'I am going to tell you three things that you need to abide by,' " Proctor said. " 'Have love, always have love, be meek, be lowly in heart and if you have these in practice and live that, you will live a long time.' "

Proctor said he will be 82-years-old in April and went on to tell a little about his life.

"I was born in 1933 in a rural community," he said. "It is about four miles from Hanna, Oklahoma. And about a quarter mile west of where I was raised is our ceremonial ground, one of the ceremonial grounds called Muddy Waters."

He said the location of his ground was described to him in reference to others.

"They told me where we are at, Tullahassee and Wvkokaye and Tokpafkv was of the same fire. Tokpafkv was located near Calvin," Proctor said. "And Wvkokaye was the way I have heard it was located close to just before you get to the river. I heard that or that was how I was told by my uncle."

Proctor said McIntosh County, where he grew up was poor and there was not much work.

"They used to raise onions and I used to top the onions. The only experience or thing I had was labor, doing labor work like hoeing cotton, picking cotton, thrashing peanuts," he said. "That

Honor ~ 7

Council passes legislation changing community funding

Consideration of LTPD chief nomination postponed

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Feb. 27 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• NCR 16-002 Adopting the rules of procedures of the National Council. Reps. Robert Hufft, Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, Randall Hicks, David Hill, James Jennings, Adam Jones and Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that the Council's Internal Affairs Committee has reviewed the rules of procedures and made recommendations for changes to the Council as a whole.

• TR 16-001 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation

Council ~ 5

Proposed state law could consolidate school districts



Chelsie Rich/MNN

A town hall meeting was held Feb. 5 at the Lone Star Public School Event Center in Sapulpa, Okla., to discuss concerns regarding Oklahoma Senate Bill 1382, which could consolidate or annex kindergarten-eighth grade schools.

Public meeting held in Sapulpa to discuss legislation

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

SAPULPA, Okla. — A town hall meeting was held Feb. 5 at the Lone Star Public School Event Center in Sapulpa to discuss concerns regarding Oklahoma Senate Bill 1382.

SB 1382 was introduced by Oklahoma State Senate President Pro Tem Brian Bingman (R) to consolidate or annex kindergarten-eighth grade public school

Consolidate ~ 3

MCN to launch sexual assault exam program April 1



Google images

Health, Family Violence Prevention discuss emergency contraception

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is preparing to officially implement the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program April 1.

"We've made great progress, but of course to establish a new program takes a tremendous amount of work, especially a program like SANE because you're talking about a program that's going to provide forensic medical examinations and care," MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Director Shawn Partridge said.

FVPP, in coordination with the MCN Department of Health, were awarded a $395,278 Victims of Crime Act grant in June 2015 to implement a SANE program for the community.

FVPP and SANE program services are available to the general community and individuals that reside within the MCN jurisdiction.

FVPP will have over-

Exam ~ 4

FVPP helps organize community response team

Okfuskee County looks to start domestic violence docket

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program is reaching out to counties to bring individuals and groups together that deal with domestic violence.

The Okfuskee County Coordinated Community Response Team is made up of individuals from the court system, law enforcement as well as advocacy and service groups.

The team meets monthly to discuss concerns and strategize on addressing them.

CCR addresses domestic violence issues by identifying target areas of need and taking action to improve upon judicial, advocacy, prevention and detection efforts to help them run smoothly, be efficient and hold offenders accountable.

"I do believe domestic violence is a problem in this community," Okmulgee County Family Resource Center Program Manager Keyna Richardson said.

OCFRC provides advocacy and shelter services for Okmulgee and Okfuskee Counties. The shelter has eight rooms available for women and children to assist in domestic violence situations.

Richardson said she receives 10-15 calls a day from women from all over Oklahoma seeking shelter and services. The nearest shelters are located in Tulsa, Muskogee and Seminole.

Richardson believes the networking that comes from being a part of the CCR team will help her provide better services for victims.

"I'm proud to be a part of this program because like I said, I feel like when people come together to try to work on an issue, if you have enough people banding together, you'll see that there'll be a change in how things work," she said.

After being a part of the Okfuskee County CCR Team and attending the National Judicial College for training, Okfuskee County Associate

Team ~ 4



Shutterstock

National Weather Service holds annual training

Refresher course held at Green Country Technology Center

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The spring season is right around the corner, which means mowing, allergies, wild onions and baseball. Another thing we can add to the list that Oklahomans know well, tornado season.

The National Weather Service held their eighth annual Storm Spotter Training Feb. 29 at the Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee.

Local and volunteer fire departments, police departments, county deputies along with Muscogee (Creek) citizens listened to the presentation given by the NWS Tulsa office.

"This training is very important because it gives everyone here a better understanding of what can be anticipated during tornado season," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said. "This is going to help you understand what Oklahoma weather is about."

Numerous topics were discussed such as: how storms and tornadoes are formed and the signs to look for, how and where to be safe while storm spotting, the path tornadoes take and how to recognize wall clouds.

"There are a lot more car related accidents during this time because sometimes, novice storm spotters who are parked in areas where traffic is still around, did not position themselves in the safest of areas," Nichols said. "These trainings can help you be familiar with safe areas from the weather you are spotting and the oncoming traffic."

Warning Coordination Meteorologist for NWS Tulsa, Ed Calianese said these annual trainings and refreshers are important for public safety and people who work in NWS.

"This helps the public to expand their knowledge on storms," Calianese said. "This also keeps our storm spotters refreshed for whatever our spring will bring to us."

Calianese said it is important for the storm spotters to be up-to-date.

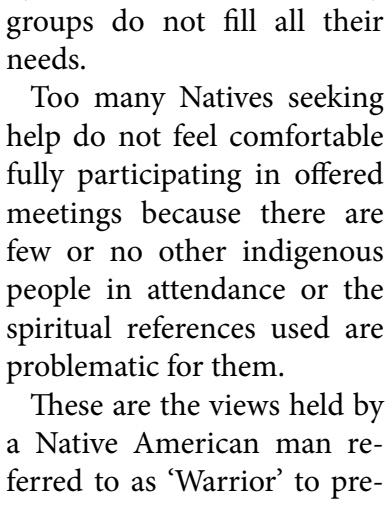
"Emergency Management relies on information from the spotters to make decisions on whether to activate sirens or when they need too," Calianese said. "We can go by radar but we need the information from the spotters to verify what is going on at that moment."

Calianese said there will be more trainings throughout northeastern Oklahoma within the next few months.

To view an updated list of trainings visit: www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=spotter_training.

For more information about or to report severe weather call Nichols at: 918-607-4206, or Okmulgee County Emergency Management Director Tim Creighton at: 918-759-9984.

26th Trail Of Hope Native sobriety conference set



Internet image

Event offers support toward needs specific to Indian Country

Gary Fife/*Radio Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For many Native Americans battling drug and alcohol addictions, the resources offered by some national recovery groups do not fill all their needs.

Too many Natives seeking help do not feel comfortable fully participating in offered meetings because there are few or no other indigenous people in attendance or the spiritual references used are problematic for them.

These are the views held by a Native American man referred to as 'Warrior' to preserve his confidentiality.

In 2008, the first study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on alcoholism among Native American peoples, "found 11.7 percent of deaths among Native Americans and Alaska Natives between 2001 and 2005 were alcohol-related, compared with 3.3 percent for the U.S. as a whole."

During a March 2 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' Warrior came to speak about the annual Trail of Hope Native American Sobriety Conference that provides fellowship, understanding and familiarity commonly lacking in many national groups.

Warrior has been one of the organizers but refers to himself as 'just a member of the Trail of Hope' as he shares some history of the event.

"The Trail of Hope was started 26 years ago by a group of men and women working on recovery and they felt they never got to see or hear many of their own people speak on the issues. So, they band together and start the Trail of Hope," he said.

A rural and tribal background, Warrior added, influences many Natives' willingness to share private experiences with non-Natives.

"So many Natives, they might come from strictly an Indian community," he said. "When you're raised around just your own people and you come into some of these rooms and there's not so many of our people, Native people, they may not be so free to come out and share what they're going through and feel what they're part of."

One of the national recovery resources mentioned by Warrior was a 'wellbriety' group called the White Bison.

"It was founded numerous years back and it's a wellness movement. It's going on all around the country."

He said its reach goes far beyond the individual.

"The whole movement is about, 'OK, I get recovery, I changed my life, but then, what do I do? I'm just sober? I just go to these rooms all the time? But, no, it's not about that. I try to heal my family. Then, from my family, I try to heal my community,' " Warrior said.

Warrior pointed out how this mission is counter to typical patterns.

"As Indian people, what do we do? We send people off to treatment. They get help then come right back into the same community that isn't even healed or well," he said. "So, then, what happens? The chances are that they aren't going to stay in recovery or stay in wellness."

The challenge of addiction for Natives is evolving, Warrior said, from a dependence on just alcohol to that which involves combinations of addictive substances, making recovery even harder.

"Alcohol is our number one enemy because it's legal and its easy access," he said. "But, I'm from a 'rez' up north and we're plagued. We're plagued with the meth (methamphetamine). It's really taken hold in all races in society itself and it's tearing it apart."

He said that evolution in addiction is showing up in attendees at the Trail of Hope conference.

"You don't have people that come that are just a drunk now. They do pills, they do meth, they do everything. That's what this conference is about," Warrior said.

That is important to know, he added, because of the youth being addicted to these substances.

"When the youth come in there, they think, 'Well, they used to just drink. Now, they add all these other things.' I think we need to be prepared to deal with things that younger people are going through too, " Warrior said.

Many people who have attended programs set up to aid in recovery have found themselves uncomfortable with the type or amount of mainstream religious connections that do not necessarily mention Native spiritualism.

Warrior said he drew upon his own culture to find this type of answer and help in recovery.

The Trail of Hope, he explained, includes these important aspects of Native cultures.

"You know, if you look into any of them 12-step programs, they say you need to get a connection to a spiritual power greater than yourselves. Most of us rely on our Native traditions. There's no one-way," Warrior said.

Warrior outlined how these are observed.

"At our conferences, we smoke off the area we use beforehand," he said. "We actually have a sweat (sweatlodge) one evening for anybody who comes to the conference who wants to participate."

He explained that such activities are optional and the group recognizes that different people have different beliefs and customs.

The 26th annual Trail of Hope Native American Sobriety Conference is scheduled March 25-27 at the Crowne Plaza Southern Hills hotel in Tulsa.

Visit their website at: trailofhopednz@gmail.com and the White Bison group at: www.whitebison.org.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Consolidate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

districts.

Hundreds of concerned parents, teachers, school administrators and citizens sat in a crowded gymnasium to hear what the future may hold for their jobs and their children's education.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Deana Allem has been a teacher at Lone Star Public Schools for 35 years and shared her thoughts.

"It will break up our community that we have built over all the years," Allem said. "Parents chose to bring their kids to this school…they don't live in our school district but they chose to bring them to our school because of the history we have for academics, sports, the discipline."

Lone Star student parent and moderator for the meeting Jamie Sivadon announced before it was called to order, that requests were sent to state legislators through phone calls and emails asking them to attend.

State Rep. Mark McCullough (R) was the only state official present that spoke on the legislation.

Sivadon said the bill is one of nine similar pending pieces of legislation.

"There are currently nine other bills that are on the agenda to be heard," Sivadon said. "All of those nine senators were contacted or spoke to either office or via email and it was noticeable that one did not know about the other bill."

A question and answer session was conducted with a panel consisting of McCullough and school district superintendents from: Cleora Public Schools, Keystone Public Schools, Peggs Public Schools, Lone Star Public Schools, Pretty Water Public Schools and Allen Bowden Public Schools.

"Let me first of all just remove all the suspense and such. I have had a chance to read the bill and I do not support it in its current form," McCullough said.

The bill states that dependent school districts or elementary school districts may voluntarily agree to consolidate but after a year, necessary action will be taken to assist the schools that did not volunteer. However, this is not the first time a consolidation bill has been presented in attempts to reduce the number of K-8th schools, which led to the question, what are the issues that have been brought up before?

"Oklahoma has an unusually high number of school districts… that does mean you have a lot more expenditures," McCullough said. "This has been a topic of discussion for legislative for a long time."

McCullough went on to discuss how consolidating administration by pulling smaller districts into bigger districts and cutting costs by eliminating superintendent positions would allow funds to be spent elsewhere.

"You wouldn't have those smaller schools absorbing that money," McCullough said. "The money you spend in admin, the money you spend in fiscal plan does not go to pay teachers salaries and all those other things that you could be spending the money on."

McCullough addressed how school consolidation would impact communities.

"The problem is that when you start talking about shutting down these schools, you're talking about shutting down a town, you're talking about shutting down a community," McCullough said.

Bingman issued a written statement to the 'Muscogee Nation News' regarding this concern.

'My proposal would not require any Oklahoma school to close,' it stated. 'It would simply streamline administrative function so we can get more of the dollars that go to education directly into the classroom.'

Section 1-B of the bill states, 'a school district included in the list published…that does not submit a petition to voluntarily consolidate or annex shall be consolidated or annexed by the State Board of Education with or into one or more school districts by July 1, 2017.'

According to his Oklahoma Senate profile, Bingman is from Sapulpa, represents Creek and Tulsa Counties and is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

In a written statement, Bingman's staff outlined the legislative track of SB 1382 moving forward.

'This particular bill will not make it out of committee this session, meaning this specific legislation will not move forward,' it stated. 'However, there are other legislative vehicles available and Sen. Bingman has promised that the conversation will continue about streamlining administrative costs and redirecting those dollars to the classroom.'

McCullough said that if the bill were to move forward, it would likely require additional qualifiers.

Qualifiers would include low performing schools and low enrollment rates.

According to a map of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction, there are 71 school districts within the boundaries. Out of those 71 school districts, 14 K-8th schools would be affected by the bill.

The MCN Johnson O'Malley Program serves 45 schools, seven of which are K-8th.

Sheila Pahsetopah has been the JOM coordinator at Lone Star Public Schools for 16 years.

"I can honestly say I love my job. It's something I look forward to. I enjoy working with my Native youth," Pahsetopah said.

Pahsetopah oversees 186 Native American students for the 2015-2016 school year.

"I know three years consistently, we did have our Native American test scores when they were looking at API (Academic Performance Index) were actually higher than the others.

"I've had several students graduate here from Lone Star School; Native youth that have either been valedictorian or salutatorian and have even gone on to even graduate from their local high schools under the same honors," Pahsetopah said.

One of the other consolidation bills, House Bill 2824 sponsored by House Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Lee Denney (R) drew attention Feb. 15 at the state capitol when it went before the House Appropriation and Budget Education Subcommittee and was voted down 3-8.

Afterward, Denney said on 'KTUL Channel 8 News,' that district consolidation efforts will continue at the capitol this year.

Bingman, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, is quoted in a Feb. 19 'Tulsa World' story stating he would not hear any school consolidation bills including his own.

MCN offers child development screenings



UNICEF website

Screenings help identify mental, behavioral issues

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to Protected Tomorrows, in the U.S., 17 percent of children have a developmental or behavioral disability. Less than half of children with these conditions are identified before they begin school.

Protected Tomorrows is an advocacy group for people with special needs.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be screened for developmental delays and disabilities at nine months, 18 months and 24-30 months.

The AAP website states study authors have concluded that pediatricians are in a unique position to intervene before problems become more serious and that screenings can promote earlier identification and treatment of mental and behavioral problems.

MCN offers development screenings for children up to five-years-old through Project LAUNCH.

"We want to catch any children in need of early intervention or resources as early as possible," MCN Child Development Screening Coordinator Natalie Russell said.

Russell said they aim to identify any delays at the earliest stage possible, hopefully before the child begins school.

"Project LAUNCH's goals in providing SWYC (Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children) screeners are to bring awareness to any concerns parents might have regarding their child's development and to catch the children that may need additional resources," she said.

Project LAUNCH is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant-funded program offered through MCN Behavioral Health Services.

BHS received the grant in 2012.

The screening is recommended for all children, whether or not a developmental delay is suspected.

The screening is a series of questions given to the parent or caregiver about the child, so children do not need to be present.

Questions are self-administered through an iPad and the screening typically takes 10-15 minutes to complete.

It can also be taken on paper if the parent or caregiver prefers.

The first portion of the questionnaire contains a 10-question developmental milestone checklist regarding the child's motor, language, social and cognitive development.

Parents and caregivers of children between 16-30 months will complete an autism specific portion called Parent's Observations of Social Interactions.

The second portion deals with behavior specific questions.

Depending on the age of the child, parents will take the Baby Pediatric Symptom Checklist for children up to 18 months, which consists of 12 questions, or the Preschool Pediatric Symptom Checklist for children up to 60 months, which consists of 18 questions.

Both age groups will also be asked two questions about any concerns they may have with their child.

The third and final portion asks nine questions regarding family context and risk factors.

A young child wellness coordinator will score the test and give the parent or caregiver the results, along with an explanation.

If there are flags in any areas on the exam, the parent or caregiver is instructed to take the letter to their pediatrician for consultation.

"It is left up to the parent to start a discussion with their pediatrician regarding their child's health/development," Russell said.

For more information or to schedule a screening, call: 1-888-756-4333 and ask for a young child wellness coordinator.



Exam

Continued from page 1

sight of additional advocates that are helping with SANE services and responding to other needs, and MCNDH will oversee the SANE nurses and volunteer nurses. Exams will be provided at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee and the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah.

Outside of the MCN SANE program, the nearest examination sites are in Tulsa and Ada. Exams are provided to victims free of charge and can be completed for adults and adolescents.

Exams allow the gathering of forensic evidence by a specially trained nurse and also provide for any medical needs an individual may have.

"So definitely while they do have the ability to collect forensic evidence, that's not the main goal of SANE," Partridge said. "It is to try and treat the health care and needs of a victim who's experienced sexual assault."

Partridge said that during typical SANE exams, victims are offered HIV/AIDS prophylactic medication and emergency contraception.

According to www.safeta.org, a source for sexual assault forensic examination protocol provided by the International Association of Forensic Nurses and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, emergency contraception should be offered to victims undergoing SANE exams.

'A victim of sexual assault should be offered prophylaxis for pregnancy, subject to informed consent and consistent with current treatment guidelines… In a case in which a provider refuses to offer certain forms of contraception for moral or religious reasons, victims of sexual assault must receive information on how to access these services in a timely fashion.'

The website also recommends sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment.

"Any other program right now that a survivor of sexual assault goes to, whether it is another tribal program or a non-tribal program, they're going to be provided Plan B, again within the context and during the exam, during the SANE exam," Partridge said. "So, we want to be able to provide that same quality of care and services."

According to www.planbonestep.com, the Plan B One-Step pill contains levonorgestrel, which is a hormone used in birth control pills. Plan B uses levonorgestrel at a higher dose for emergency contraception.

The website states that it is available over the counter and typically located with feminine care products.

According to the Plan B One-Step website, the pill should be taken within 72 hours after sexual contact and helps prevent seven out of eight potential pregnancies.

'It is not an abortion pill. It will not work if you are already pregnant and will not harm an existing pregnancy.'

The website also states that it is not recommended as regular birth control and does not protect against HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

"And it works both by inhibiting ovulation, it also thickens what they call cervical mucus, which makes the sperm more difficult to penetrate and fertilize," MCNDH Interim Secretary of Health Dr. Lawrence Vark said. "There is also some evidence that it may alter the lining of the uterus to retard implantation."

Vark said that MCNDH does not currently have a policy regarding emergency contraception and it is not available at MCN clinics and pharmacies.

According to a 'Muscogee Nation News' article published Nov. 15, 2013, emergency contraception is not offered due to religious, moral and ethical questions regarding this type of contraception.

'MNN' reached out to the Indian Health Service regarding its policy for emergency contraceptives such as Plan B.

'Plan B One-Step, is an approved drug for the IHS National Core Formulary. All federal facilities within IHS are required to have any medication on the National Core Formulary available to their beneficiaries.

'The Indian Health Service mandates that all federal IHS pharmacies maintain Plan B One-Step or the generic equivalent in their pharmacies.

'All Urban and Tribally-operated health programs with pharmaceutical services have the ability to order Plan B One-Step, through the Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor or National Service Supply Center as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Tribes and Urban programs determine what is available in their formularies and are not required to follow IHS policies.

'How Tribally-operated and Urban programs make pharmaceuticals available through the private sector is determined by the facility. For questions about availability of EC (emergency contraception), including Plan B, at an Urban or Tribally-operated facility, please contact the facility directly.'

As part of its policy on emergency contraception, IHS facilities provide staff to distribute emergency contraception on behalf of any staff member who objects to its distribution due to religion or moral reasons.

"Contraception after the fact starts to touch on a lot of religious and ethical questions for individuals, whether they're medical providers or not and when you have a population of 40 or 50 providers, you're going to get a variety of beliefs.

"But we do have staff who feel that, that type of contraception should be available. So, as a result of that, we certainly have the capacity to make it available to the citizens should they desire that," Vark said.

Vark said the SANE program will provide emergency contraception, HIV/AIDS prophylaxis and medications for other sexually transmitted illnesses during the examination.

"So we will be able to handle both the emotional and the physical needs of someone who is a victim of such a sad situation and in those circumstances, we certainly will be providing Plan B," he said.

Partridge said the provision of Plan B in the SANE program would be optional for the individual.

"Everything throughout the exam is completely optional," she said.

Partridge said that as a Muscogee (Creek) woman, she hopes that offering emergency contraception through the SANE program will open the door to offering Plan B through MCNDH.

"I think having the SANE program obviously is a way for us to open that conversation and have these kinds of discussions," she said. "They're important discussions because we're talking about women's health care, reproductive rights and justice, and they're not conversations that I think we've really had before."

Vark said that he has only been in the secretary of health position for a short amount of time, but that the conversation has begun.

"I have no problem with instituting a Plan B program. However, I serve at the pleasure of the principal chief," he said. "I just want to get together with him and let him know that we've got a plan laid out for Plan B and that we would like to make it available in the clinic to people."

Vark has not yet been confirmed as secretary and would be official in this position if he were to be presented to the Council by the Executive Branch and confirmed by legislation.

Vark said he wants to make sure that the program will be consistent with the mission and the values of the Nation.

Vark said that MCNDH policies are created by the officers that assist the secretary of health.

He said that MCNDH does have a variety of birth control options including oral birth control, the Depo-Provera shot, the implantable device Nexplanon as well as intrauterine devices such as Mirena and condoms.

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Team

Continued from page 1

District Court Judge David Martin got the idea to begin a domestic violence docket.

"You have the force of the court behind the court's orders," he said.

Martin has served Okfuskee County for over 25 years.

The monthly docket would apply to individuals who have plead guilty or have been convicted of domestic violence, and allow the judge to "supervise" their probation and make sure they are complying with the terms and conditions.

In the state of Oklahoma, each offender is required to attend a 52-week domestic violence class.

Martin will receive updated reports on each offender's progress through their probation in the hopes of intervening early on if there is an issue. The district attorney also monitors the progress of each offender.

"It's just another tool from the DA's supervision to hopefully address the problem and hopefully solve the problem," Martin said. "That's the goal is to make sure we have no further incidents of domestic violence."

Martin said the point of the program is to prevent further domestic violence in the community.

"I just think it shows how the courts can branch out and try some different things to try to help meet the problems that society is experiencing," he said.

Martin said Okfuskee County had 15 felony domestic violence cases and 34 misdemeanor domestic violence cases filed in 2015.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau website, the population estimate for Okfuskee County as of July 1, 2014 was 12,186.

If an offender is not complying with the terms of their probation, Martin said he will get involved.

"I could ask the state to file a motion to revoke their probation and I also have part of the rules and condition that they will go and successfully complete the sentence so I can actually put them in jail for failure to comply with my court's order," Martin said. "But I think what we're going to see is that once they realize that that's a possibility, I think they're going to do the proper thing."

Martin said engaging all entities that deal with domestic violence is key in responding to and eliminating domestic violence.

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the Indian Health Service for the employment of Willard Cookson as commissioned personnel at the MCN Medical Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would allow the Nation to hire Cookson as the senior clinical nurse specialist at MCNMC.

• TR 16-014 Repealing TR 15-183 and authorizing the principal chief to execute a software access and remote hosting agreement on behalf of the MCN Department of Health with Cerner and 3M Company. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The agreement through TR 15-183 contained incorrect terms. The legislation would correct the terms of the contract and allow collaboration between Cerner and 3M to provide software for MCNDH.

• TR 16-015 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an equipment lease agreement for MCNDH with Preferred Business Systems LLC. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would allow MCNDH to lease copier equipment through PBS for the Sapulpa health clinic.

• TR 16-016 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an on-demand service quote between MCN and GE Healthcare for MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

The resolution would allow MCNDH to receive a quote for a replacement X-ray tube from GE Healthcare.

• TR 16-017 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an updated letter of agreement and amendment to general letter of agreement with Communitycare HMO for MCNDH to furnish health care services to Communitycare HMO members in the commercial and Communitycare Plus plans. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would amend currently provided medical services from MCNDH to Communitycare HMO members.

• TR 16-018 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a request for use of school property with Beggs Public School. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would approve an agreement for the MCN Tribal Child and Youth Coalition Program's Spring Celebration to be held at the Beggs Activity Center for no cost.

• TR 16-019 Opposing the federal recognition of the entity known as the Muscogee Nation of Florida pursuant to application before the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research. Reps. Rufus Scott, Darrell Proctor, Yahola and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that the sovereignty and reputation of MCN is in jeopardy due to the acts of individuals, organized groups and cultural clubs claiming Muscogee (Creek) heritage and do not have lineage verification or meet MCN criteria for citizenship.

MNF has sought state and federal recognition, and has not met federal qualifications in the past. MCN has determined that MNF is not in any relation to MCN or any of its tribal towns, and has not provided acceptable proof that they are tied traditionally, historically, culturally or politically to MCN or the Creek Confederacy.

According to www.govtrack.us, HR 2591 was proposed in 2011 but never enacted, extending federal recognition to MNF. The bill states that MNF is comprised of lineal descendants of the Creek Confederacy that relocated to Florida between 1812-1887 and continued Muscogee (Creek) lifestyle and traditions.

It states that the descendants participated in the Treaty of Fort Jackson, the Apalachicola Treaty and were included in the Abbott-Parson Creek Census. The group is based out of Bruce, Fla.

• TR 16-022 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a right-of-way and easement grant across tribal land for the construction, use and maintenance of pipeline for Diamond Pipeline LLC in Okmulgee County. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would allow Diamond Pipeline to survey, clear and excavate the Nation's land north of Duck Creek Casino to place a pipeline for transporting crude oil.

• TR 16-023 Confirming the nomination of Robert Hawkins Jr. to serve as the chief of the Lighthorse Administration. Reps. Mark Randolph, Rufus Scott, Barnett and Yahola sponsored the resolution, which was postponed one month.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd has nominated Hawkins to serve as the chief of police for the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' reached out to Randolph for comment, but did not receive a statement by press time.

• TR 16-024 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute the attached agreements for construction on the Creek Nation Casino Muscogee server room. Reps. Randall Hicks, Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would authorize GOAB to build out an existing server room to maintain proper temperature and humidity levels to protect and house gaming servers.

GOAB has reached proposed agreements with Graybar, Communication Supply Corporation, Tyco Simplex Grinnell, Spirit Electric and Hix Air Conditioning Service Inc. The total of the agreements is $258,029.91.

• TR 16-025 Authorizing GOAB to execute a hospitality network services agreement with Hospitality Network LLC. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution would authorize GOAB to enter into a multi-year agreement for in-room TV, information, messaging, video on-demand and content management for the new hotel at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

• NCA 16-012 Creating a new Title 18, Section 2-107, titled 'Emergency Vocational and Technical Scholarship Fund' to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens attempting to complete their education. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The amendment would create an emergency scholarship fund for citizens facing unforeseen financial circumstances while attending state-funded career and technical schools such as Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and the College of the Muscogee Nation.

The amendment would allow students to apply for a one-time award up to $3,500 per student depending on need and fund availability.

The MCN Employment and Training Administration will oversee the program. A committee consisting of the ETA manager, Higher Education manager and Scholarship Foundation manager will review each request.

• NCA 16-013 Authorizing a $70,000 appropriation to the ETA- Emergency Vocational and Technical Scholarship Fund. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The amendment would provide funding for the program created through NCA 16-012.

• NCA 16-014 Authorizing a $4,419 special appropriation for unpaid funeral expenses of a Muscogee (Creek) descendant of Emma Mitchell, then Bear; a deceased, full-blood Creek Indian, roll number 7988. Yahola and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-10 with Reps. Del Beaver, Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere, Mitch Jack, Adam Jones, Greene, Hicks, Hufft, Hill and Proctor voting against it.

The amendment would provide funds for the funeral expenses of James Samuel Buckner, as requested by his sister, Regina Buckner McVay. Buckner passed away Nov. 13, 2015.

Buckner was the son of Johnson and Betty Crowell Buckner, who died prior to enrollment.

His maternal grandmother was Emma Bear Mitchell per a Hughes County Court judgment and decree number 6636.

Buckner was incarcerated in the Oklahoma Penal System since Sept. 19, 1987, serving a 150-year sentence.

Buckner was not enrolled as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and therefore is ineligible for burial assistance from MCN Social Services or the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Jessica McBride/MNN

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Feb. 27 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Barnett said during the meeting that sometimes circumstances go outside of the rules.

"What we're talking about is human beings, dignity for a man that would have been enrolled had his circumstances been different," she said.

Rep. Del Beaver said he was thinking for the future of the tribe as a whole and of the current laws that govern it when he voted against the measure.

"…so even though I know the story on him and I know that he had a hardship but still as a citizen, we get $3,000 and I didn't see how it being right for a non-citizen, even though he was a descendant, but a non-citizen to get almost $4,500," he said.

Rep. Del Beaver said he was also concerned of the "can of worms" this legislation could open by providing services to non-citizens.

Hicks said that he considered MCN law when voting against the amendment.

"It was one of those deals where you have compassion and you feel for the family, but Muscogee law, I mean he was not enrolled as a citizen," Hicks said. "And I understand the circumstances but law is law and I just had to follow law so basically that's why I didn't support it,"

• NCA 16-015 Authorizing a $250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Greene voting against it.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rebecca LeClair is a member of the Tulsa Threat Women's Football Team and is requesting funds to help cover out-of-pocket expenses as a team member. Team members are responsible for raising $1,000.

• NCA 16-017 Authorizing a $1,094.17 special appropriation for funeral expenses of a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. n Rep. Rufus Scott sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The family of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sheila Scott is seeking financial assistance for her funeral expenses. Sheila Scott passed away Dec. 27, 2015.

The family applied for and received assistance from the Nation's Social Services Department, and applied for and is expected to receive burial assistance from the BIA.

Due to extenuating circumstances, the expenses were $2,000 more than a basic service.

• NCA 16-018 Repealing Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, 'Grant Funds for Economic Development and Social Service Programs' and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, 'Annual Funds for Operational Costs, Economic Development and Social Service Programs of Chartered Communities.' Reps. Pete Beaver, Rufus Scott, Deere, Greene, Barnett and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NCA 91-44 authorized an annual appropriation to chartered communities to be divided into shares according to economic status. The legislation states that the amount of the Community Development Block Grant is not enough for the communities to fund the activities and services they wish to provide.

The amendment would replace the CDBG with the Community Operation and Development Fund to assist communities in economic development, social services and activities.

The funds would not be allowed to be used for board member stipends, personal mileage, personal rent or mortgage, personal loans, vehicle purchases, per capita payments, board meals or mobile phones.

The funds are required to be kept in a separate account and reported monthly in written reports to the community members.

The Nation would provide $1.5 million in the Comprehensive Annual Budget each fiscal year beginning in 2017. The funds would be divided equally among the communities and not exceed $60,000 per community in a fiscal

Council - 6



Native News Today

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak discusses his nomination by Principal Chief James Floyd.

McPeak reconfirmed as tax commissioner

McPeak discusses tobacco taxes, accepting credit cards

Jessica McBride/*Media Coordinator*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jerry McPeak has served as Muscogee (Creek) Nation tax commissioner for five years and has been nominated for the position by three different principal chiefs.

McPeak was nominated by MCN Principal Chief James Floyd and confirmed Jan. 30 by the National Council through TR 16-008 with a vote of 14-1.

He was first asked to serve as tax commissioner by former MCN Principal Chief A.D. Ellis.

McPeak said when he first began, he observed the processes and workflow of the Tax Commission in order to better assist customers and make their visit an enjoyable experience.

"I wanted to improve the way that we conducted our business. We want folks to want to come into the Tag Office or come into the Tax Commission and want to come back tomorrow whether they want a tag or not," McPeak said.

He said he would like to credit his most recent nomination to profits brought in by the Tax Commission.

"We did the data recently and we're getting 50 percent more income off our tags now than we were five years ago when I started," McPeak said.

According to numbers provided to the 'Muscogee Nation News' for a previous story, the Tax Commission brought in total revenue of $8.981 million back to the Nation for fiscal year 2015.

The numbers provided indicate an increase of $930,431 in tobacco tax revenue from FY 2014 to FY 2015.

McPeak attributes this increase to the tobacco compact signed with the State of Oklahoma in August 2014.

McPeak said he was honored by Floyd's nomination.

"I hope it was because I do a good job and I hope it was because I get along with the folks and do the job really well," he said. "It's certainly my goal to do those things… and it really is an honor.

"It really is humbling to be chosen by three different chiefs to serve."

McPeak said he sees being an Oklahoma State representative as an advantage for his position with MCN.

"In comparison, from one government to another, the tribal government's actually done a better job over the last few years than our state government has as far as running their business and growing theirselves economically than what the state has," he said. "It surely gives you a different perspective to recognize the tribes are the number three industry in Oklahoma."

McPeak said the state has done a poor job managing economic issues.

"We've made some really bad business decisions… and they're like alcoholics," he said. "An alcoholic, until he's willing to say that, 'I'm an alcoholic,' can't get fixed. Until the people at Oklahoma City at the state capital are willing to say, 'We messed up,' they can't fix it because they're not willing to say, 'We messed up.' "

Recently, state officials have brought up raising tobacco taxes to have more funds to go towards health care and education.

McPeak said in his opinion, the tribes should still get their portion of the tax.

"However, within that capitol building up there… there's some legal minds there that say… 'if it's earmarked for something, then the tribe's don't get their percentage of that extra tax,' " he said.

McPeak said he believes MCN has the best tobacco compact in the state.

"There's some things I think and there's some things I know and that's one thing I know," he said.

Over this next term in his position, McPeak said the Tax Commission is looking at accepting credit card transactions.

"But it costs us like three percent to do that," he said. "So three percent of $10 million, I don't know where y'all come from but that's a lot of money at my house. So we're kind of reluctant to do that unless we can find out a way to do it, but we are working on that."

McPeak said he is proud to be Native and proud to work for his Nation. McPeak's term as tax commissioner is concurrent with the term of the principal chief.

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

year.

The funds will be disbursed in three increments not to exceed $20,000 each. One payment will be made in May 2016 in the amount of $25,000. Beginning with FY 2017, payments will be made in October, February and June, depending on if the CAB is approved.

The amendment would revoke and cancel any Council appropriations for annual Christmas funds and van appropriations.

The amendment also addresses financial reporting requirements by the communities to the Nation, and other requirements to receive each disbursement.

The amendment will still allow communities to submit proposals and appropriation requests to the Council relating to economic development projects.

• **NCA 16-019 Authorizing a $3,000 special appropriation to three Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Jack sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-10 with Reps. Del Beaver, Pete Beaver, Barnett, Greene, Hill, Hufft, Jennings, Proctor, Randolph and Yahola voting against it.**

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Billy 'Chebon' Marks has been a martial artist for 42 years and has worn a black belt for 37 years. He is ranked as a fifth degree black belt master.

In 2008, he received his Ph. D. from the University of Asian Martial Art Studies. He has been honored as a Native American martial artist various times from the U.S.A. Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

He plans to attend the hall of fame March 18-20 and has requested financial assistance to sponsor him and students Hok-She-Na and Yafke Marks to conduct a seminar while at the hall of fame.

• **NCA 16-020 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the National Indian Child Welfare Association to sponsor the 34th annual 'Protecting Our Children' National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

NICWA is dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families, and is the only national Native organization focused specifically on tribes preventing child abuse and neglect. The conference is April 3-6 in St. Paul, Minn.

The original legislation called for a $20,000 donation but was amended on the floor during the meeting. The amendment passed 10-5 with Reps. Rufus Scott, Barnett, Greene, Randolph and Yahola voting against it.

• **NCA 16-021 Amending NCA 13-316 (A law of the MCN creating a new MCNCA Title 28, Chapter 9, titled, 'MCN Natural Resource Conservation District' and appropriating said funds). Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

NCA 13-316 appropriates $300,000 for the conservation district. The amendment states that the appropriation shall be included in the CAB annually and funds will carry forward until fully expended.

• **NCA 16-026 Amending MCNCA Title 30, Section 1-104 titled, 'National Council/Legislative Branch.' Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The amendment gives the authority for codification of the laws to the MCN attorney general and removes all references of the codification committee in the Code.

• **NCA 16-027 Amending MCNCA Title 16, Section 3-106 titled, 'Office of the Attorney General.' Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The amendment would add the authority granted through NCA 16-026 to the portion of the Code that outlines the duties of the attorney general.

The 'MNN' reached out to Jones via email and phone the afternoons of Feb. 23 and 25 to explain the reasoning and mechanics behind NCAs 16-026 and 027 and did not receive a response as of press time.

• **NCA 16-028 Creating a new Chapter 8 under MCNCA Title 17 titled, 'Gaming Operations Authority Board.' Reps. Lucian Tiger, Hufft, Hicks and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-3 with Reps. Rufus Scott, Jack and Randolph voting against it.**

The amendment moves the laws that apply to the Nation's gaming codified in Title 21 to Title 17 with the laws involving economic development.

The legislation states that gaming is a multi-million dollar industry and the main source of economic development for MCN. The legislation also updates GOAB policies.

The amendment would raise the maximum allowed for GOAB contracts without Council approval from $50,000 to $300,000, and the term of contracts from one year to three years.

The amendment would raise board member stipends from $400 to $750 for each GOAB meeting or when they are requested to attend a Council meeting.

Randolph said he could not support the bill because of the increase in the board stipends.

"We just went through budget hearings. We were unable to support raises for any of our employees… in light of our financial situation, I believe we've got to watch our spending," he said.

During the Feb. 18 Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting, Rep. Pete Beaver made a motion to lower the stipend increase to $500.

Hufft stated that a previous discussion regarding the stipends concluded with an agreement that GOAB would send less board representatives per meeting, thus decreasing the overall compensation.

Tiger stated that this would decrease the overall amount paid out in stipends.

Rep. Pete Beaver withdrew the motion.

Barnett proposed an amendment on the floor during the regular session to adjust board member terms from three years to two years. The motion failed 5-10 with Reps. Del Beaver, Rufus Scott, Deere, Hicks, Hill, Hufft, Jennings, Jones, Proctor and Yahola voting against it.

• **NCA 16-029 Repealing Chapter 4 of Title 21 titled, 'Gaming Operations Authority Board.' Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Reps. Rufus Scott and Randolph voting against it.**

The legislation states that the laws, which govern GOAB have not been updated along with changes in the industry and contain low threshold spending, micro-management provisions that cause an inability to make expedient business decisions.

The amendment would move this portion to MCNCA Title 17 along with updated revisions.

The next regular session is scheduled March 19.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCN Code Annotated is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Honor

Continued from page 1

was just during the fall for a little while and after that, we would have to do without."

Proctor talked about ceremonial life.

"The great of all, the event that takes place, is the Green Corn Ceremony. So, that was a time of forgiveness and it was in mid-summer… during that time whatever they done and broke the law was all got clean," he said.

In a press release, American Indian Resource Center advisory board member Will Hill spoke of Proctor.

'I have known Sam Proctor my entire life and have long been inspired by his efforts to preserve the heart of the Muscogee Creek culture and keep the traditions alive,' Hill said.

Proctor was recognized March 5 by the Tulsa City-County Library American Indian Resource Center as this year's American Indian Festival of Words Circle of Honor inductee.

The Circle of Honor recognizes Native Americans who seek to preserve history and culture.

The inductee receives a medallion and $5,000.

Proctor spoke of the ceremony.

"I am just a little guy…The Creator is the one who has something to do with that," he said. "It is the creator that has given us this, and so that's why I say that, and I am sure ya'll probably say the same thing, I am proud to be an Indian."



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) elder and ceremonial leader Sam Proctor with Muscogee (Creek) Nation leaders March 5 before the Circle of Honor Awards ceremony at the Tulsa City-County Library.

Entrepreneurial artist grant awarded to citizen



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leslie Deer was awarded a $5,000 business entrepreneurial grant and fellowship from the First Peoples Fund to further development of her business.

Deer turns hobby into profession

Chelsie Rich/*Project Specialist*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leslie Deer was awarded a $5,000 business entrepreneurial grant and fellowship from the First Peoples Fund to further development of her business.

According to a press release, the First Peoples Fund based in Rapid City, S.D., focuses on community and economic development for tribal communities through support for Native artists.

"I'm honored that my artwork and commitment to my community have been recognized by First Peoples Fund. This grant and leadership training will help me expand my work and market and allow me to continue to give back to my culture and community," Deer said.

Deer is a textile and apparel design artist from Holdenville who has been sewing for over 25 years. Growing up in California, Deer was part of the powwow scene and has danced for most of her life.

"I started out making my own dance clothes, my dance regalia," Deer said.

Deer was a cast member of the American Indian Dance Theater where she made regalia and learned how to do beadwork.

Deer and her family relocated to the Shawnee area where she learned how to make traditional ribbon work from a Sac and Fox elder women, which she incorporated into her regalia.

"After a while, when I would dance at powwows, people would ask me if I could make regalia for them," Deer said. "So I started to do a little bit of that and then I started going to Native American art markets."

Deer soon realized she enjoyed sewing, creating and being artistic and decided to go back to school to pursue her passion.

In May 2015, Deer graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in apparel design and production.

Deer also holds a degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma.

"Now, I'm working on starting my own business making Native influenced or Native inspired contemporary clothing," Deer said.

To preview her work visit: leslie-deer.wix.com/portfolio. Deer plans to launch a new retail website later this year.

For more information contact Deer at: lesliedeer@gmail.com.

For further information about First Peoples Fund or to apply for support through one of their programs, visit: www.firstpeoplesfund.org or contact them at: P.O. Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977.

March rings in the spring season for Oklahoma

Highland Park/
non-citizen Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — March rings in the spring season with the anticipation of warm, glowing sunshine.

For us older folks, it elicits memories of planting gardens, spring cleaning as well as Easter and Mother's Day get-togethers.

The word March comes from the Romans after the God of War (Mars).

March used to be the first month of the year until 1752 when we changed the Gregorian calendar. The Anglo-Saxon word 'Hlyd Monath' for March means 'stormy month.'

There are many interesting events that occur in March.

The infamous daylight savings time, which was actually the concept of Ben Franklin, began on March 13.

The 'Ides of March' was a Roman religious event dealing with the assassination of Julius Caesar.

The Spring Equinox occurs when the length of day and night are near equal. International Earth Day began in the '70s portion of the hippie movement turning focus from the Vietnam War to the environment.

'Purim' is the Jewish celebration similar to Halloween or Mardi Gras, where costumes are worn and gifts of food are taken door-to-door.

The Christian celebration of Palm Sunday and the triumphant entrance of Christ into Jerusalem are prominent this month.

Then there's St. Patrick's Day, a cultural-religious holiday honoring the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, ushered in by St. Patrick.

The three-leafed Shamrock was used to explain the Holy Trinity.

Lent is lifted for this one day in Ireland.

The color green was thought to make one invisible to Leprechauns, who would pinch you otherwise.

There are many other fun facts about March.

Coca-Cola was introduced on March 29, 1886.

The first transatlantic radio broadcast and the first daily weather forecast occurred in March and the first colonists arrived on March 25, 1634.

Famous people born in March include: Albert Einstein, James Madison, Robert Frost, Dr. Seuss, Shaquill O'Neal, Bruce Willis, Lady Gaga, Elton John and Justin Beiber.

In conclusion, I think most of us would perceive March's spring arrival as a new beginning, a fresh start and a time of renewal, which is beneficial to everyone regardless of age.

The Mvskoke first new moon of spring ceremony initiated the planting season, prediction of crop success or failure and included dancing and the relighting of the sacred fire by the firemaker.

All home fires were extinguished and rekindled from the sacred fire coals.

This ceremony dealt with friendships and relationships where vows were made to regard the other as himself and the bringing together of those who had quarreled in the past year.

This symbolized unification of the people with their creator and purification of mind and body.

What an absolutely wonderful concepts of renewal.





Native News Today/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) historian and collector T.S. Akers created the Stars on Their Shoulders: Military Uniforms of the 20th Century exhibit that will show through May at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher, Okla.

Citizen creates military uniform exhibit from personal collection

Akers details his, regalia's history

Sterling Cosper/*MNN Editor*

KINGFISHER, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) historian T.S. Akers created the Stars on Their Shoulders: Military Uniforms of the 20th Century exhibit, which is on display at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher.

"This exhibit is an evolutionary history of uniforms of the American Army and Air Force, starting with dress blues that trace their origins back to Washington's Continentals through service uniforms that came into existence in World War I through the '50s into existence still today," Akers said.

He shared the history of his interest in this regalia and tied it into that of the exhibit itself.

"I fell in love with military history in my youth and I studied military history at the University of Oklahoma, so that's what my bachelor's is in," Akers said. "When I was doing my master's work in museum studies, one of my courses required me to do an exhibit with 12 objects."

He also gave background on the pieces featured and the servicemen they belonged to, one of which was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"General Otwa T. Autry, he was born in Anadarko and he was a schoolteacher in Enid. That was his civilian occupation.

"He enlisted in the Army in 1924 as a private and rose to the rank of brigadier general, served in eight campaigns in World War II and he also served in Korea. His career culminated when he became division artillery commander for the 45th Infantry Division, the famous Thunderbirds," Akers said.

According to the 45th Infantry Museum website, the Thunderbirds were organized in 1923 and served domestically during periods of political unrest and natural disasters until World War II.

It states that they became famous during World War II through their valiant efforts and fighting abilities and eventually served with the U.S. 7th Army led by Gen. George Patton who said of them, "Your division is one of the best, if not the best division in the history of American arms."

Akers said he is kin to another prominent Muscogee (Creek) military figure.

"I am a descendent of William McIntosh who was called the White Warrior and he served with Andrew Jackson and I have pieces in my collection," he said.

According to: www.georgiaencyclopedia.org, McIntosh was a controversial chief of the Lower Creeks in early-nineteenth-century Georgia.

His general support of the United States and its efforts to obtain cessions of Creek territory alienated him from many Creeks who opposed white encroachment on Indian land.

Akers said he owns a piece featuring more than one citizen.

"I have a great photograph of Company 8 of the 180th Infantry of Oklahoma stationed in Eufaula and you look at that photograph and you see so many faces," he said. "It was essentially a company of Creek citizens."

After the exhibit closes at the end of May, Akers said he would be interested in showing it elsewhere such as the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex.

"I would love to do that and perhaps expand the traveling portion of this to include some other pieces so that is something that can always be considered," he said. "My wife would certainly love to see some things out of the house."

Akers said he has begun narrowing his interests.

"When I started collecting it was a matter of, you want to acquire as many things as possible but today, I really focus on pieces that are an example of something I don't already have and I'm starting to focus more on Oklahomans," he said.

This is reflected in the exhibit.

"So there are three Oklahomans in this exhibition: General Autry, General West and General Thompson and just a couple of weeks ago I acquired another uniform of an Oklahoman, General Lawless who was from Holdenville," Akers said.

CTM Director and Curator Adam Lynn said the museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and gave a plug for Stars on Their Shoulders.

"It's fantastic and we can't thank Mr. Akers enough for loaning this exhibit," he said. "It's been a wonderful experience."

The Civil War ripped Creek Nation 155 years ago

Don Diehl/*Non-Citizen*

SAPULPA, Okla. — Local history is not far removed from a Civil War battle re-enactment that took place recently at Yale. The Battle of Round Mountain was the first battle of the Civil War fought in Indian Territory on Nov. 19, 1861.

That battle as well as others impacted the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and forever altered the way things would play out the next 30 to 40 years – Indian lands opened to white settlement, towns were established by settlers and the railroad and statehood were established.

Re-enactments like this one might not make the point clearly.

The 'troops' in the Battle of Round Mountain, the main players and bulk of the participants were Indians commanded by Indians. Civil War history cannot be separated from Native American history.

This is especially true in Oklahoma (land of the redman) where inhabitants of Indian Territory were persuaded, if not out and out forced to take sides in a war not of their making. It was not the first time.

The newly formed Confederate States of America saw opportunity in Oklahoma and had moved to win favor of a people who already knew something about the repressive Blue Coats.

Tribal leaders bought in to the appeal with little thought of the outcome should the rebellion be squashed, and with little or no consensus of their councils. It is true that some tribal citizens including Creeks, were owners of black slaves. But it is debatable if that issue was very high on the list of reasons to join the Confederacy.

The Union had to re-align its troop configuration for the war including its fort systems in Indian Territory. They abandoned any protection of lives and property of Oklahoma's primary residents. Taking charge of Indian Territory lying between confederate states of Arkansas and Texas could only help the rebel cause.

In perspective, barely 10 years earlier, the man referred to as Sapulpa's first permanent settler, a full-blood Lower Creek Indian named Sapulpa had established a trading post near the meeting of Polecat and Rock Creeks (about a mile southeast of present-day downtown).

He and other rancher/farmers regardless of which side they chose to support or not support, suffered much loss because of the Civil War. The greater loss was lives by Indians killing Indians and, much as it was across the nation, a devising spirit that lasted for generations.

The Battle of Round Mountain Re-enactment recreates a winter encampment of that era.

The event takes place over three days, with living history soldiers setting up opposing camps on that Friday.

Vendors in period dress sold their wares including food and refreshments. The re-enactment of the battle itself began that Saturday afternoon as visitors witnessed Confederate and Union soldiers slowly advancing on the field of battle.

There was smoke from guns and cannons that filled the air. The event also showcased a Civil War era ball on Saturday. Costumed attendees swirled around the dance floor as traditional fiddle music was performed on stage. On Sunday, a period church service was held in the morning.

Not to be critical, a lot of hard work unfolded as attempts were made to show aspects of Oklahoma's part in the U.S. Civil War. In actuality, historians record a much deeper narrative than can be thus portrayed.

The Battle of Round Mountain references one of numerous hills north of the Red Fork on Cimarron River near Keystone. That town is now under waters of Lake Keystone. The exact location of the battle is debated.

Researchers say it is closer to the location where the re-enactment took place.

Following the outbreak of hostilities between the Union and Confederacy in 1861, a majority of Indian Territory inhabitants, mainly through their leaders, allied themselves with the Confederacy.

But not a band of Upper Creek Indians led by Chief Opothleyahola who organized his followers for an exodus to Kansas. In addition to Creeks and their families, he was joined by small numbers of Comanches, Delawares, Kickapoos, Seminoles, Wichitas and Shawnees.

To be continued...

Diehl has worked for publications from his small-town weekly newspaper 'The Sapulpa Herald' to one of the largest daily newspapers in the Southwest 'The Daily Oklahoman,' writing features, columns, editorials and hard news stories.

He has been awarded and recognized by his peers and the Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma Press Associations as well as the Associated Press.

SOURCES:

'Chronicles of Oklahoma,' Oklahoma Historical Society; 'History of Sapulpa,' Sapulpa Historical Society; Georgianencyclopedia.org; Kathryn E. Holland Braund, 'Deerskins and Duffels: The Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685-1815,' 2nd ed. and Michael D. Green, 'The Politics of Indian Removal: Creek Government and Society in Crisis.'

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Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and University of Oklahoma freshman Davion Jeffries (left) during his wrestling match Dec. 13, 2015 on the OU campus McCasland Field House in Norman, Okla.

Freshman wrestler excels at OU

Jeffries competes for celebrated program

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

NORMAN, Okla. — Ever since he saw his older brother wrestle, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Davion Jeffries wanted to try it out.

"When I was younger, I saw my older brother wrestling and he was really good at it," Jeffries said. "Since he wrestled, I wanted to wrestle too."

This began when he was four-years-old and Jeffries has taken his desire all the way to the University of Oklahoma Sooners wrestling team. Jeffries has already made an impact on his team as he is nationally ranked for the Sooners.

OU Wrestling Head Coach Mark Cody talked about what Jeffries has accomplished during his short tenure.

"It's been great, you know, he's a pleasant surprise because not many people come in right out of high school," Cody said. "It usually takes them a year of training under their belt and maybe a year of open tournaments but he is right out of the gate."

Jeffries wrestled out of Broken Arrow for his last two years of high school and spoke about the transition to collegiate competition.

"It is a big difference," Jeffries said. "There is a lot more technique to it. You have to prepare yourself and get ready for this type of wrestling."

He also said preparing himself in the summer helped him get ready for his inaugural season with the Sooners.

Jeffries shared how he felt when he started getting notices from universities who wanted him to wrestle at their institutions.

"It felt really good getting the letters and the interests that they were showing to me when I started to get recruited," Jeffries said. "It meant to me that all my hard work was paying off."

Jeffries said some of the universities that were recruiting him were from the Big 12, Big 10 and other conferences but it was the Sooners that caught his interest.

"It was a family when I came to visit here," Jeffries said. "I grew up with some of the people on the team and they were really accepting of me joining them. It feels great going out there and representing OU."

Jeffries feels that his freshman season is going well so far. He feels there are certain things that he still needs to work on.

"There are always going to be things to improve on but I feel that I can be an All-American by the end of the season," Jeffries said.

Jeffries also had to adjust to college life overall.

"It is good but it keeps you busy," Jeffries said. "I do not have a lot of time to go do things for myself but there is nothing wrong with that. I enjoy it a lot."

Cody loves the confidence that Jeffries shows when he wrestles in competition and practice.

"It is amazing to me, particularly the level of confidence that he has," Cody said.

Davion is the son of Jackie Waggnor and Rodney Jeffries. He is majoring in criminology and sociology.

Graduate profiles due May 13

MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will be featuring 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the 'MNN.'

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo should also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 13 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Lewis tries his hand, feet at combat



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ronnell Lewis trains in preparation for his next fight scheduled April 8 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Former football star takes on new challenge

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

TULSA, Okla. — Around Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction, people are familiar with Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ronnell Lewis from when he played football for Dewar High School and later, the University of Oklahoma.

Lewis went on to fulfill his dream of competing in the NFL and he also played arena football.

Now, Lewis is pursuing a career in mixed martial arts and states that it is the best way to use personal aggression.

"I like competing and fighting," Lewis said. "Since I am not pursuing football anymore, why not fight?"

Lewis said he has always felt the calling to be in a boxing ring or cage fight.

"Not to toot my own horn, but I have confidence in myself that I can be a fighter and be successful at it," Lewis said. "I believe that with the right training and making myself better, I can hang with the best."

Lewis is an amateur fighter but feels he will turn professional soon.

"At the end of the day, this is what is driving me," Lewis said. "I want to work my way to the top and stay there."

Lewis has been training a little over six months and his first amateur fight was in Dewey.

He recalls being nervous before for the match but said that adrenaline took over shortly before.

"That first fight was a rush," Lewis said. "Yes, I was nervous but when it was time to fight, I remembered what my training was for and did that in the fight."

Lewis said he has been around a lot of physical sports but feels that fighting is unique.

"With football, you have a team out there with you," Lewis said. "The same way with basketball but in fighting, it is only you. Just three people there and you are the only one that can fight for you. My trainers cannot fight for me. Just me."

His third fight was at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa and was going great until something other than his opponent ended it prematurely.

"A week before my fight, I was very sick and then it wore off and I felt better," Lewis said. "Unfortunately, being sick played into bothering the sickle cell trait that I have and I was very dehydrated."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, SCT is inherited from parents and involves one gene related to Sickle Cell Disease and one normal one.

While SCT is not a disease, it can cause complications in an athlete's health through symptoms such as dehydration.

"I thought I was still getting enough water in my system for this fight," Lewis said. "Being sick stirred everything up."

Lewis has dealt with SCT his whole life and while there is no known cure, he believes he can maintain it.

His coach, Craig Blacklock and Lewis have been taking different approaches to training.

"It is not going to affect me," Lewis said. "I have had this all my life. It was a different type of training with football and I adjusted. Now with fighting, I will have to adjust on how to get ready for the fights. Nothing will change. I will be ready for my fights."

Blacklock remembers seeing something in Lewis when he played football at OU.

"You can have a lot of skill but if you do not have the aggression, there is really nothing you can do," Blacklock said. "It cannot help your skills. I saw it in Ronnell, the skills and able to use his aggression to benefit himself and his fighting."

Blacklock knows that Lewis is still young in his fighting career but feels that he will blossom quicker than expected.

"There are times when he tries too hard," Blacklock said. "I tell him when he loosens up, he moves around like he is 180 pounds. That will come over time."

Lewis said he got his start in both kickboxing and MMA but in the near future, he wants to set his focus on boxing.

"I feel that it will be the best sport for me," Lewis said. "I am glad I can do kickboxing and MMA but boxing is what I want to do. I feel I can be very successful at boxing."

Lewis has a word of advice for anyone who wants to give any sport a try.

"Go for it," Lewis said. "Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot succeed. If they tell you, prove them wrong. Make them believe in you."

Lewis trains with Blacklock at World Class Fitness and Fighting located at 7401 E. 46th Pl.,Tulsa, OK.

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Darren DeLaune/MNN

Coaches and family members of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Raini Deerinwater watch as she signs her letter of intent Jan. 22 at Sapulpa High School to play softball at Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kan.

Citizen to play at Coffeyville Community College

Determination rewards Deerinwater through collegiate opportunity

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

SAPULPA, Okla. — You always hear that 'perseverance pays off.' This saying is true of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Raini Deerinwater.

Deerinwater signed Jan. 22 at Sapulpa High School, to play softball for Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kan.

Deerinwater got what she called a 'late start' in recruiting so she took it upon herself to get the ball rolling.

She started getting email addresses and phone numbers and began calling to find coaches that would want to take a chance and look at her.

"I did my tryouts and was able to get campus visits set up," Deerinwater said.

This eventually paid off and the visits led her to CCC. Deerinwater said CCC felt comfortable, almost like a home away from home.

"The campus was not too big or small," she said. "I felt that it will be a good fit for me."

Deerinwater has been playing softball since she was four-years-old. She started in Bristow and ended up in Sapulpa. She played other sports but felt the one she needed to focus on was softball.

"I have always been an outdoors person," Deerinwater said. "So softball, I wanted to focus on because of my love for being outside."

She also said she did not have the same drive for other sports.

Deerinwater plays in the outfield and feels that she will continue play there at the next level.

Deerinwater spoke about her time in Sapulpa. She said she went through four different coaches during her high school career. While some would say that is a disadvantage, she used it as a way to improving her game.

"It was very rocky but I would not take away these four years and learning from four different coaches," Deerinwater said. "I learned a lot during my time at Sapulpa."

She said she was able to work and adapt to how the coaches wanted her to play.

"Different coaches have different styles of playing," Deerinwater said. "So I took something from each coach in my years here to help shape me into what I am."

She felt that each year and each coach brought something for the better.

"Not only for me but for the team also," Deerinwater said.

Head Softball Coach Rosemary Holloway-Hill praised her outgoing senior.

"She (Raini) is the one who got her scholarship," Holloway-Hill said. "She worked for it and earned it."

Holloway-Hill said that they will be losing a great leader when Deerinwater leaves but CCC will be gaining a student-athlete who has great experience and can adapt to anything on and off the field.

"Coffeyville got a great grab with Raini," Holloway-Hill said. "I call her like a 'sleeper' player. She is someone you really do not know about but once the coaches see what she can do, they will know and be proud of who they will have on their team."

Deerinwater has not decided on a major. However, she is passionate about art and would like to have a major that will be involved with both sports and art.

"I do a lot of art on my free time," Deerinwater said. "I paint and I draw."

Art runs in the family for Deerinwater, as both her father and grandfather partake in it. Whenever she feels like drawing or painting, she will grab her sketchbook or canvas and start.

"It is an escape for me," Deerinwater said. "There might be extended periods of time when I do not draw but once I get that idea, it goes from there."

She rarely shows her work once it is finished. She also said that if she gets an idea and starts, she cannot stop until it is done.

"It is fresh in my mind so I feel that I have to get it put on something," Deerinwater said. "I don't have any plans to show what I do."

Deerinwater said her future with softball will not end with CCC.

"I want to be associated with softball in someway, even after my playing days are over," Deerinwater said. "It is a feeling that I do not want to end."

Her parents are Melissa Macarthur and Craig Deerinwater and she is of the Hotvle (Wind) Clan and Greenleaf Tribal Town.

Cousins sign to play soccer at cross-town universities



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) cousins Reagan Whitlow (L) and Allison Hurd (R) grew up playing soccer together and signed to play at different universities in Tulsa, Okla.

Best friends set for competition between TU, ORU

Darren DeLaune/*MNN Reporter*

COWETA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens Reagan Whitlow and Allison Hurd grew up playing soccer together since they were five-years-old and went on to compete against one another on school teams.

Whitlow and Hurd, who are cousins and best friends, began their careers alongside one another on recreational and club teams.

They began facing off in high school, as Whitlow went on to play for Broken Arrow while Hurd represented Union in Tulsa.

"Although we are on the same club team, we compete against each other on our high school teams," Whitlow said. "Her team always beats us."

This competitive trend is set to continue as both signed Feb. 3 to play at the collegiate level, with Whitlow representing the University of Tulsa and Hurd agreeing to play for Oral Roberts University.

The cousins became serious about advancing in the sport when they were pushed to win games competitively in high school.

"When that happen, we both thought that we could and we wanted to play college," Whitlow said.

Hurd said Whitlow can play any position while she sticks to midfield.

"She can play anywhere. I like to stay in the center," Hurd said. "That is where I am good at."

Both of them play in a Texas conference with their club team, TSC Hurricane.

"We do a lot of traveling," Hurd said. "We are the only team from Oklahoma in the conference."

They have also played in showcases out of states such as Arizona, California and Washington.

"The teams we played against are very good," Whitlow said. "We were right there with them. In our freshman and sophomore years, we were in the top 15 in the country."

Whitlow said they commonly talked to each other on the field as competitors.

"Even when we have on different uniforms, that did not stop us from talking," she said.

Hurd explained what ORU means to her and why she chose that institution.

"I loved the environment that ORU had," she said. "I could have went to TU but it was ORU that made an impact on me. I felt more welcomed there. I got the feeling when I stepped on campus that ORU was for me."

Hurd said ORU has a good nursing program, which is what she wants to pursue when she starts in the fall.

Whitlow explained that during her junior year, she originally planned to play for the University of Arkansas but decided on TU because of her career path and to be close to her family.

"I want to study Indian law and TU has a great Indian law program," Whitlow said. "My family will get to watch me play and I get to play against my best friend again."

When they were younger, the cousins both planned on playing together in college. When the time came to decide on universities, they jokingly tried to persuade one another to sign with the other side to make this happen.

"We are still close," laughed Whitlow. "We got as close as we could."

Despite the continuation of their cross-town rivalry, they still plan on maintaining their friendship.

"Noting is going to change," Whitlow said. "We are the type of friends that we do not have to see each other everyday but when we do, we pick up where we left off."

Hurd shared the same sentiments.

"We will still have our conversations," Hurd said. "Both off and on the field."

Allison Hurd is daughter of Michael and Christina Hurd and she is of the Nokose (Bear) Clan and Tvlahasse Tribal Town.

Reagan Whitlow is the daughter of Brian and Becky Whitlow and she is of the Eco (Deer) Clan and Weogufkee Tribal Town. She is also a member of Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church.



Workout of the Month extended

The Lunge

Darren DeLaune*/MNN Reporter*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department and the 'Muscogee Nation News' has teamed up again to bring you another workout for this month.

Along with the previous workout, this one can be done whether you are at the gym or at home. All you need is space.

TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson provides a description of this month's workout, the lunge.

The lunge is a lower body workout where one leg is positioned forward with your knee bent and foot flat on the ground while the other leg is positioned behind it.

This move focuses on the quadriceps, hamstrings and glutes.

Johnson said lunges help with overall mobility.

"It promotes balance and it is also a stride trainer because it mimics your walk or your run," Johnson said.

Johnson said if you have knee problems or lower body extremity problems, do a warm up first to get your muscles and joints ready for the exercise.

Johnson spoke about the importance of healthy eating to go along with the workouts.

"You can't outwork a bad diet," Johnson said. "Why would you do the suggestive workouts such as Creek Fit or Workout of the Month and then go eat fast food? It does not work that way."

Johnson said his best example would be to treat your body like a sports car. Great fuel will burn clean and helps the vehicle perform better.

"The same as for your body," Johnson said. "If you eat clean, your body will perform better for you."

See the recipe below for a healthy eating suggestion.



Step 1

Start with either foot, and take a step in front of you. You want your stride to be equivalent to a running stride.

WORKOUT

2-3 times a week
4 sets of 10-15 reps

Step 2

Lower the lower half of your body all the way to the ground



"If you eat clean, your body will perform better for you."

- Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson

Step 3

Get back to starting position and use the next foot. Repeat steps 1 and 2.

Turkey meatloaf



3 lbs. ground turkey, **3** egg whites, **1** cup oats, ½ tsp. cumin, ½ tsp. thyme, **2** tsp. mustard, **2** tsp. black pepper, **1** tsp. salt, **2** tbsp. garlic powder or minced garlic, **2** bell peppers, ½ cup chicken stock, ½ cup low sodium soy sauce, natural ketchup over the top

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

2. Mix all contents in a big bowl.

3. Bake for 45 -60 minutes.

* Make sure cooking pan is covered.

Modified

Instead of lowering your body all the way to the ground, you can lower it to a quarter of the way and still get the same effect. This version is called a quarter lunge.

Johnson said if you have knee problems or lower body extremity problems. Do a warm up first to get your muscles and joints ready for the exercise.

ERIC NOON



OKEMAH, Okla. — Eric Ray Noon was born July 25, 1974 in Claremore.

Eric passed away Feb. 24, 2016 at his home in Okemah at the age of 41.

Eric was full-blood Native American, Creek and Seminole, belonged to the Beaver Clan and New Tulsa Ceremonial Ground and was an active member of the Church of Christ and Okemah Community.

Eric was a resident of Okemah and was attending Wes Watkins Vo-Tech in pursuit of a CNA degree. Eric and Jennifer McCarty were married Oct. 12, 1996 in Tulsa. He enjoyed fishing, was a talented artist and a Big Foot enthusiast who loved to watch it, and listen to the many tales of finding Big Foot.

Eric was a loving husband, father, son and friend to many. In the words of Will Rogers, "I never meant a stranger I didn't like."

He is preceded in death by his: uncle, Bill Noon; grandmother, Patricia Noon; father-in-law, Jack McCarty and his grandfather, Calvin West.

Survivors include his: sons, Jordan Young, Brandon Noon, Nathaniel Noon and Ashton Noon all of Okemah; daughter, Kayla Noon of Okemah; sisters, Heather West of Spencer and JB Dunmire and husband, Shane of Cromwell; parents and a host of relatives and friends.

Serving, as active pallbearers were: Tony Sands, Tyrone Russell, Scott Robinson, Eric Wise, Jordan Young, Adam West and Chris West.

Honorary bearers included: Patrick Bear, Daniel Bear, Craig Short, Frank Bear, Declan Donnelly, Keith Bear and Joe Losh.

It is an understatement to say that Eric was well liked in the community. Eric would ask about the people at New Tulsa, loved his church family and his support group friends. Eric started a local NA group that he was proud to be part of in the community. He loved to help people and it was his passion to help others first before he helped himself.

Eric loved his friends and family and went to great lengths to ensure their well-being. His children were his most prized love here on earth. Eric also loved to cook for his family and friends. He had an outgoing personality and never met a stranger. His hugs were genuine and with love. To know Eric was to love him.

His smile, sense of humor and talkative nature, will be missed by all who knew Eric.

Don't let those little moments pass by. You never know what kind of lasting influence you will have.

Say what needs to be said exactly when you need to say it. MVTO.

JESSIE NORTHCUTT

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Jessie (Jay) Northcutt passed away peacefully Feb. 25, 2016 with his sisters at his side. Jessie was born Jan. 18, 1929 in Winchester, Tenn., to C.E. (Shorty) and Gladys Northcutt. Gladys was from the Eufaula/Checotah area so the family moved back shortly after Jessie was born.

Jessie is survived by his: children, JR, Jabodie and Charles Northcutt; brother, Leroy Northcutt of Canadian; sisters, Joyce Ables, Fayetteville, Tenn., Geraldine Davis, Sapulpa, Betty Wood, Eufaula, Reba Cardoza, Vacaville, Calif., and Roberta Zielke, Edmond.

Jessie was preceded in death by his: wife, Ellamae; parents and sister, Bonnie Mosier.

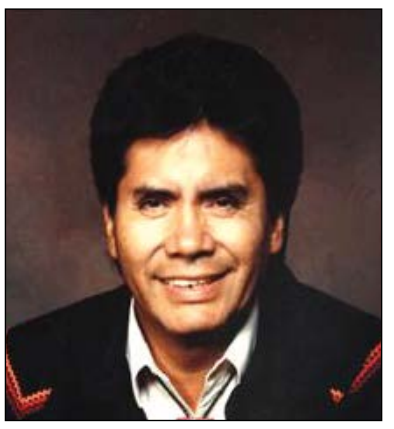
Jessie was a veteran having served in the U.S. Navy. Following his military service, he enjoyed a very long career as a long-haul truck driver. He could turn those trucks around in spaces where most of us would have difficulty turning a car around.

Those around him enjoyed Jessie's wit and sense of humor.

The family would like to thank the staff at Wellington Nursing Home for the care they gave him in his final days.

At Jessie's request, there will be no formal funeral service. He will be interred in the National Cemetery at Fort Smith, Ark.

WAYNE TARYOLE



CARNEGIE, Okla. — Wayne E. Taryole, 72, walked into the presence of the Lord Feb. 8, 2016, in Carnegie. He was born Oct. 9, 1943, in Henryetta to Marchie and Betsy (Leader) Taryole. Wayne was a pastor and Bible teacher and completed 28 years of ministry to God, to preach and teach the Gospel. His life was one truly lived to the fulfillment of God's will and purposed call.

He is survived by his: faithful wife of 52 years Antonia, Mountain View; son, W. Ellis (Kidder) and wife Anita Taryole, Temple, Ariz.; daughter, Sonja D and husband, Mark Nelson, Albuquerque, N.M.; grandchildren, Kiowa J. Taryole, Alyssa Taryole, Ajara Taryole Lucillia Taryole, Lydia Nelson, Sarah Nelson and Amelia Nelson; sister, JoAnn and Bill Dodd, Elsinore, Utah; numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews, along with brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws and a host of friends

He is preceded in death by his: parents; sister, Norma Graddock and brothers Winfred and Steve Taryole.

Viewing was Feb. 12 at Ray and Martha's Funeral Chapel in Carnegie.

Funeral services were Feb. 13 at First Baptist Church in Carnegie with Rev. Wade Robertson officiating.

Burial followed at Mountain View Cemetery in Mountain View under the direction of Ray and Martha's Funeral Home in Carnegie.

WILD ONION DINNER SET MARCH 19

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah Church has set a wild onion dinner for March 19 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Plates are $10 per person. For more information call: 918-759-7020.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 19

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church, 8815 W. 101st St. in Tulsa has set a wild onion dinner for March 19.

Dinners are $9 for adults and $7 for children.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 19

SAPULPA, Okla. — A wild onion dinner is set for March 19 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Sapulpa Community Center to benefit the Little Cussetah Baptist Church youth group.

Plates are $10 and include onions, salt pork, fry bread, ham and beans, corn, dessert and a drink.

For more information call Chris Tiger at: 918-370-7570.

MCN ROYALTY MEETING SET MARCH 23

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A meeting has been set for all female enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 14-24 who are interested in competing in the 2016 MCN Scholarship Pageant. The meeting is set for March 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee. For more information, cowntact Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

POWWOW SET APRIL 2

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The 11th annual Azalea Powwow is set April 2 and will be hosted by Fife Indian United Methodist Church at the Civic Center Arena in Muskogee.

The event will begin with a gourd dance at 2 p.m., dinner is at 5 p.m. and grand entry is at 7 p.m.

Admission is $3 and free for children six and under.

For information including more events and vendor details call: 918-816-1498.

DAY OF PRAYER EVENT SET APRIL 2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A National Day of Prayer event is set April 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are invited. For more information call: 918-282-9381.

WILD ONION DINNER SET APRIL 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church has set an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner for April 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinners are $10 for adults and carry out and $5 for children 12 and under.

For more information call Karen King at: 918-652-5356.

FORMER MCN ROYALTY SOUGHT

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant Committee is seeking former MCN royalty to take part in this year's Honoring Past Princesses event. Those interested may contact Terrie Anderson at: 918-732-7699, tanderson@mcn-nsn.gov or Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

April 1 — March 24

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 22

May 15 —May 6

June 1 — May 24

Indigenous Outreach 2016 event set March 28 - April 1

Grover Wind/*Citizen Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2016 Indigenous Outreach event is set March 28 - April 1 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee and starts at 7 p.m. nightly.

Pastor John Parish will present March 28, Rev. Grover Wind March 29,

Pastor Fred Lowe March 30, Pastor Ellson Bennett March 31 and Brother Charles 'Son' McHenry April 1.

Praise and worship will be led March 28-30 by the Shipley family; special music presented by Melodie Wind, David Smith and Callie Bennett March 31 and Mvskoke singing led by Pastor Paul Fixico April 1.

For more information call Grover Wind at: 918-398-3393 or Fred Lowe at: 918-843-2265.

Widows support group camp set April 15-16

ECHO/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The ECHO widows support group has set the Camp ECHO 2016 event for April 15-16 at The Rowe Family Center, 8th and Seminole in Okmulgee across from the jail.

The event will feature four workshops for: basket making, jewelry, quilting and a one-on-one session on widowhood. All Native widows are invited for free and non-Widows are as well and will be charged $25 for admission a T-shirt and lunch.

To register, call Nancy Deere at: 918-756-4272.

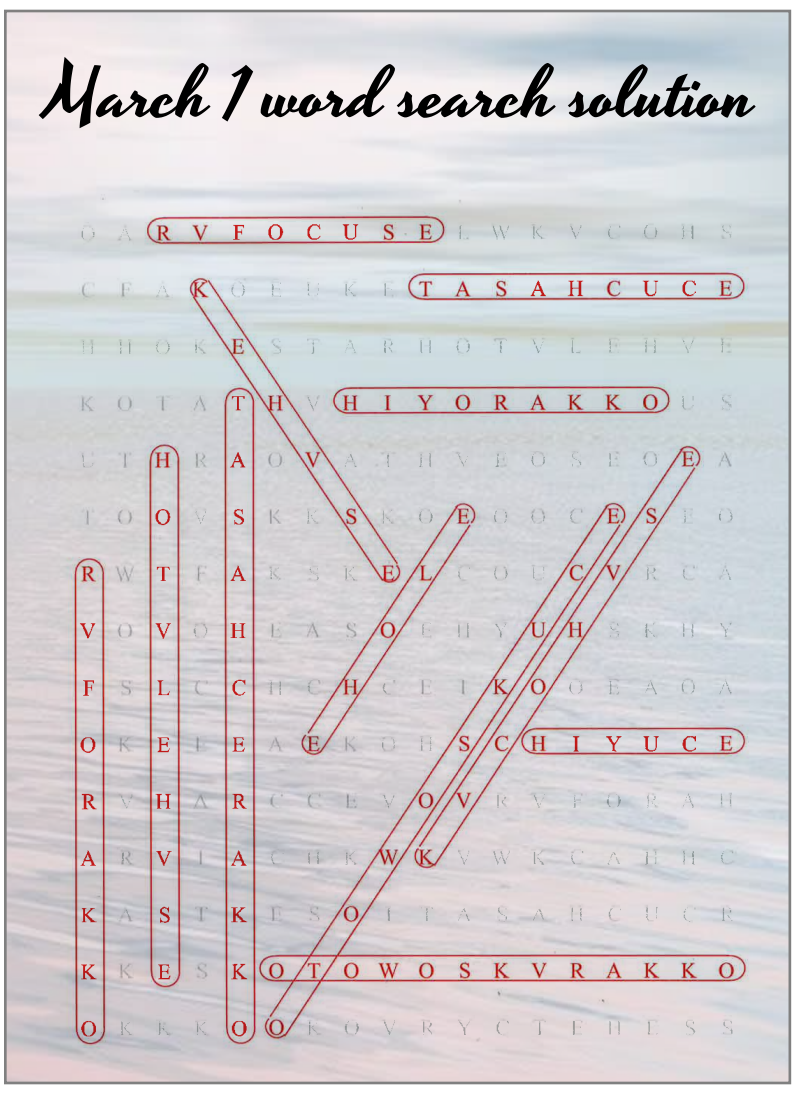
UPDATE Mvskoke language camp set June 13-17

MCN MLPP/*Media Release*

HULBERT, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 13-17 at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert.

Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) and entering the seventh-12th grades. For applications, which are due March 31, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.



Stacy Cooper
Editor

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

April 1, 2016 "Tasahce Rakko" Big Spring

Vol. 46, Issue 7



Ongoing MCN cabinet member coverage — Pages 8-9

Picking wild onions — Page 12

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Bill would change construction-reporting requirements on cultural properties



MNN File Photo

Proposed law would remove requirement to notify MCN

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A proposed Georgia state law would amend the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, regarding construction and improvement of public roads.

Senate Bill 346 would change reporting requirements for construction on culturally pertinent and historic sites, potentially allowing construction on historic, pre-Removal Muscogee (Creek) Nation land without notifying the Nation.

MCN Cultural Preservation Department Interim Manager and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer RaeLynn Butler said the office works to protect and preserve MCN culture and history, and the office is doing its best to look after MCN cultural interests in the Southeast.

"We strongly oppose this bill," Butler said. "This could mean really bad news for Indian Country, especially Southeast tribes that con-

Cultural ~ 6

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

Health deficit, Tulsa dam and OKC museum updates, national election

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In local issues, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd and the National Council are dealing with a huge funding deficit with the MCN Department of Health.

Reports indicate Floyd inherited this situation and he is now working on some plans to meet this fiscal challenge.

According to financial documents, MCN had purchased costly facilities that aren't producing the needed revenues. Council representatives said in a recent meeting that they hadn't been supplied with timely or accurate information about these ventures by the previous administration and MCNDH Governing Board.

A new draft plan of action indicates major changes in MCNDH operations and personnel could be on the horizon.

In national news, it looks like Native Americans aren't particularly high on agendas of the current crop of presidential candidates. Without taking sides, here's some of

Emvpanayv ~ 5



Sterling Cosper_Stock art

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed a resolution approving a $65.68 million loan to address the reported financial deficit at the MCN Health Department during a March 21 extraordinary session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

$65.8 million loan approved to address reported Health deficit

Principal chief, Council discuss department budget issue, strategy

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council extraordinary session was held March 21 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee to address the reported budget deficit at the MCN Department of Health.

The Council considered TR 16-045 substitute legislation, authorizing the Nation to obtain a loan management account from the Bank of America-Merrill Lynch in the amount of $65,680,000 to be used toward restoring funds for MCNDH operations and re-align the department to operate more efficiently.

The resolution passed 14-1, with Rep. James Jennings voting against it.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' contacted Jennings March 22 for a comment and did not receive a response as of press time.

At the session, Jennings said the Council did not have all of the information in order to make decisions previously.

"I appreciate what you're doing working, trying to get this situation solved. You inherited this. This is not something that's come through your administration," he said. "But, since I've been on the Council, I served on the HEW (Health, Education and Welfare) committee every year. And I just feel like that we've been left in the dark here."

Other comments made during the meeting indicated responsibility on the previous administration. The 'MNN' reached out to former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger for comment and he voiced intention to touch base on the issue March 28 after gathering information.

The 'MNN' also reached out to former MCN Secretary of Health Seneca Smith and

Deficit ~ 4

Council approves legislation to implement VAWA at MCN

Bill allowing community to pursue federal grant passes

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 17 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

- **TR 16-023 confirming the nomination of Robert Hawkins Jr. to serve as chief of the Lighthorse administration. Reps. Mark Randolph, Dode Barnett, Rufus Scott and Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely 11-4 with Reps. Joyce Deere, Adam Jones, Barnett and Yahola voting against the motion.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and MCN Principal Chief James Floyd nom-

Council ~ 7

Council's HEW Committee passes legislation regarding Citizenship Office



MNN File Photo_Stock art

Legislation would create new citizenship cards to serve as passports

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office discussed three pieces of legislation March 7 during the MCN National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee. The full Council addressed the legislation at a regular session March 19 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Passport cards

TR 16-026 would approve a memorandum of understanding between MCN and

Citizenship ~ 6

ATTENTION

Mvskoke Media staff are switching email addresses. Please see our updated information on page two. Mvto



MCIFB website

Freedmen group seek federal recognition as independent tribe

President explains group background, mission

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — President of the Muscogee (Creek) Indian Freedmen Band Ron Graham said MCIFB sent their first letter requesting federal recognition as an independent tribal nation in 2012.

"We have submitted over 8,000 documents to Washington, D.C., the Department of Interior, the BIA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs," Graham said. "So we're looking forward to see what they're doing and how they're going to go about doing the process."

Graham said MCIFB is an organization seeking to represent descendants of African-American slaves formerly on the rolls of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who lost citizenship status shortly after the MCN government was reorganized in 1979, following a national Indian self-determination movement.

"In 1979 when they changed the Constitution but that was the start actually because it was in 1981 when they established the citizenship roll," Graham said.

Article III, Section 2 of the MCN Constitution in part states, 'Persons eligible for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall consist of Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137), and persons who are lineal descendants of those…'

"It states that you have to have a listed blood quantum to become a citizen of the Creek Nation," Graham said. "That was one part and the other part is that you have to be listed on the Dawes Commission Roll and the Freedmen are. But what separates us is that we don't have a listed blood quantum on our card."

He said the commission was undiscerning on which roll they chose for citizens.

"Some were placed on the blood roll and some were placed on the Freedmen Roll, even though they had the same mother and father," he said.

Before this, Graham said the Treaty of 1866 made between MCN and the U.S. government following the Civil War, enrolled former slaves of tribal citizens as citizens themselves.

"I start with the treaty of 1866 and the Dawes Commission, which started in 1898," he said. "There is a fine area between 1866 and 1898 where everyone in the Creek Nation were full members."

According to a previous 'Muscogee Nation News' interview, Graham sought Muscogee (Creek) citizenship status through a 2005 MCN District Court case and won but it was dismissed by the MCN Supreme Court after an appeal was filed by the MCN Citizenship Board.

"Some of us have tried that avenue, myself personally," he said. "And we don't want to get into the same thing the Cherokee Nation, this day are going through."

Graham said the other Five Civilized Tribes have Freedmen and similar treaties from 1866 and while the Seminole Nation has retained their Freedmen citizens, others like MCN and the Cherokee Nation have passed tribal laws that removed them.

According to the National Museum of the American Indian website, 'Some descendants of the Cherokee freedmen have filed a lawsuit to regain tribal citizenship. They claim the 2007 amendment to the Cherokee tribal constitution ignores history and violates the treaty of 1866.'

"For the most part, since the Cherokee Nation suit is still in Washington, D.C., they cannot back away from it," Graham said. "The ones I've talked to, I'm not speaking for everyone but the ones I've talked to are waiting on this Cherokee Nation decision that's been out for about two years."

Graham reiterated that this is not the case with MCIFB.

"We decided to do this, go this route trying to get our tribe because we don't want the problems that exist with other tribes and we don't want the problem once we get in, are they going to kick us out again," he said.

Graham clarified that he could only speak for MCIFB.

"I'm just talking for the people who are members of our association," he said. "Now I can't speak for all Creek Freedmen descendants."

If they receive recognition, Graham said the group would be a democracy and seek to provide services.

"We would take a vote on how we would want things ran," he said. "We would start from ground zero and build it up such as housing, health care, education."

He addressed the potential of competing for resources with other tribes.

"Well we just want what's ours period," Graham said. "We want our pot and what's in the pot and that's it. No more. No less."

Graham acknowledged the sovereignty of other tribes that could be affected by his mission and said federal involvement is a moral matter.

"We totally, 100 percent believe in sovereignty but we believe once you cross over someone else's injustice, someone else should step in and see what is going on," he said.

MCN National Council Rep. Darrell Proctor, who is chairman of the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee, said he would have to know more about the matter before commenting on their quest for federal recognition and LNC member Rep. Del Beaver shared a similar sentiment.

While waiting on recognition, Graham said his focus is on providing education about the Creek Freedmen through avenues such as his Feb. 18 presentation at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

"I teach about the land that was given to us, 160 acres, Graham said. "Each citizen, new born, minor, if you were full blood, if you were freedmen, you received 160 acres so that's what I try to instill and to teach about the Freedmen."

He said the Freedmen were active in the tribe.

"They were judges. They were attorneys. They were tribal legislators. They were in the House of Kings, House of Warriors," Graham said. "They were doctors, teachers. They were Lighthorse Police and of course, they were loyal citizens."

Graham said a common question he receives is about the potential for genetic testing to help his cause.

"People ask me all the time about my DNA. It has nothing to do with DNA," he said. "It has everything to do with documentation."

For more information about MCIFB visit: www.1866creekfreedmen.com.

Listen to 'Mvskoke Radio' coverage: http://tinyurl.com/zysycqn.

View 'Native News Today' coverage: http://tinyurl.com/zhjnsbp.

The Civil War ripped Creek Nation: part 2

Don Diehl/*Non-Citizen*

SAPULPA, Okla. — The Yuchi camps of Creek County were also considered part of the Creek Nation. It is not clear what the attitudes of their leaders were toward the conflict. Interestingly, African American slaves and Freedmen also joined the exodus in hope of relocating in the north.

Local Indians had few choices and neutrality was not one of them. Most joined the Confederacy. Those remaining loyal to the Union sought refuge in Kansas, hideouts or less impacted areas along the Texas border.

It was on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1861 when the Civil War officially began in Oklahoma. Opothleyahola's column of nearly 1,700 men had been on the lookout for pursuing Confederates. They, along with women and children were traveling in wagons, on horseback and by foot carrying as many of their possessions as possible.

They were being pursued by Col. Douglas H. Cooper, whose Confederate command of approximately 1,300 troops consisted of Texas cavalry, Choctaw and Chickasaw mounted riflemen, a Creek regiment and Seminole warriors.

Cooper, a former Indian agent, had orders to, "take measures to secure the protection of these tribes in their present country from the agrarian rapacity of the North."

Confrontation began when Confederate outriders were surprised by Opothleyahola's scouts north of the Red Fork. The Confederates executed a fighting retreat and awaited reinforcements. The two sides battled before darkness. A prairie fire reportedly set by Opothleyahola's men concluded the initial engagement, according to accounts.

To be continued...

See part 1 in the March 15 edition for source material and information about the author.

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Bill proposed to provide insurance for autism therapies



American Psychological Association website

Muscogee (Creek) family supports legislation

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On a typical day, a Muscogee (Creek) family of three young boys play outside with their dog. The oldest enjoys football, the youngest has a fascination with dinosaurs.

The four-year-old middle child loves trains. He was diagnosed with autism in November 2015.

Their mother, a Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee who wished to remain anonymous for privacy reasons, has been searching for any type of service or therapy that might be available to her son since his diagnosis.

Between the ages of two and three, his parents began to notice that his language skills had stopped developing and other developmental delays.

They were referred to the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center's Child Studies Center and were recommended to pursue applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy.

According to www.autismspeaks.org, ABA focuses on reinforcing desired principles to bring about positive behavior changes. The techniques can be used in structured classroom settings as well as everyday settings in the home.

Most of the therapy is one-on-one between the therapist and client, and features a customized curriculum based upon the client's needs.

Some clients are referred for intensive ABA programs that involve 25-40 hour a week therapy sessions for several years.

However, the family hit a barrier in receiving the recommended treatment.

"Because Oklahoma as a state does not have a bill that requires insurance companies to cover the evidence-based applied behavioral analysis therapy, then our insurance does not cover that," the mother said.

She went through two months of dialogue with the insurance company, gathering documents.

The situation was referred for a medical peer review, where the services were finally denied.

The family had a consultation for the ABA therapy to see what type of services they could provide for their son. The price tag given was around $8,000 per month.

"And so it was obviously not an option to private pay out of our pocket," the mother said. "And so, that's where families are stuck in that if insurance isn't going to come in and assist, then parents are just, any middle class family, even upper middle class would have a difficult time budgeting that."

Autism and its effects

The advocacy group Autism Speaks defines autism, or autism spectrum disorder as a complex brain development disorder.

"It's a very challenging disability. Children with autism, they often have delays in communication. That's kind of one of those core areas that you see," OU Health Science Center Associate Professor and Oklahoma Autism Center Director Dr. Bonnie McBride said.

She expanded on the challenges.

"And they have these social delays, social communication delays… all of these things that are all really core building block skills that you need for learning other things later in life, they're not learning because they're not paying attention to those things often in their environment and they're not understanding they're important things to pay attention to," McBride said.

McBride is also a board certified behavior analyst and has worked with autism spectrum disorders for over 25 years.

She explained that toddlers with autism commonly do not learn from their social environment like a child that is typical in development such as understanding facial expressions, exploring, playing and communicating.

She said children with autism are disadvantaged because the disorder causes them to fall further behind children of the same age.

"Kids with autism often have a lot of challenging behaviors, behaviors that adults find challenging because they may be disruptive. They may in some instances, they may harm themselves or others," McBride said. "And a lot of that stems from frustration about not being able to communicate, get your needs met and get people to understand what it is you want."

She said families often suffer and are isolated because public outings become very difficult.

"You have this child that looks very typical. You can't look at a child with autism and say, 'That child has autism,' but yet they behave very differently than other children," McBride said.

She explained how this affects the handing of behavioral issues.

"So a lot of times parents will take their children out in public and people will say, 'Well, why don't you control your child better? You need to discipline them.'

"They don't understand that disciplining them in a traditional way is not going to work. They don't understand that all you're doing is just often times making it worse because it's just upsetting the child more," McBride said.

She said some parents quit their jobs to take care of their children because childcare centers are sometimes unable to handle children with autism.

Support for change

Ashley Dawson's son was diagnosed with autism three years ago. He is now six-years-old.

Dawson is an Autism Oklahoma administrative leader and facilitates parent support groups. She is also on the PieceWalk fundraising committee.

Autism Oklahoma is a grassroots support network that provides support groups for parents of those on the autism spectrum as well as these individuals themselves.

The PieceWalk is an Oklahoma group that offers support and facilitates an awareness day in May.

Since the family's health insurance did not cover ABA therapy, they sought speech and occupational therapy for their son.

Dawson said it initially helped, but they stopped seeing results after a year.

"My husband and I decided at that point that ABA had to happen," Dawson said. "We didn't know how we were going to do it, but we knew we had to do it."

Their son had a college fund provided by his grandparent that the entire family decided to utilize to cover costs.

Therapists recommended that Dawson's son attend therapy for 40 hours per week to target underlying issues. She decided on a plan for 15 hours per week based on what they could afford.

Soon after ABA therapy started, Dawson began to see results with her son. He utilized an iPad with an application to help communicate his wants and needs with the hope that the application would eventually help him speak.

"To see that huge of a positive change in your child in just a short period of time, we knew we had to keep it going," she said.

Dawson discontinued therapy Jan. 31 after 18 months, and drained the $40,000 college fund.

"The only reason that we stopped is because the money's just not there to do that anymore, but if it was mandated with health insurance, we could still get that up to maybe $35,000 a year… that would definitely cover enough to keep my child from regressing into those behaviors that they worked so hard, and we worked so hard at home to get out of," Dawson said.

Since 2001, 43 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted some form of autism insurance reform laws.

Oklahoma is one of seven states where health insurance companies are not required to cover some form of therapy for autism spectrum disorders.

Oklahoma State Rep. Jason Nelson said the state legislature looked at bills proposed to deal with the issue in 2008. He said it was a partisan and expensive effort.

"And there was not really a willingness by some proponents to look at, 'How do we help control the cost as it relates to insurance,' " Nelson said. "And there was a huge lack of information back then for instance. Back then, Oklahoma would've been one of the very first states to have made this type of reform."

Nelson said Oklahoma can take advantage of looking at other states to mold legislation after.

Nelson thought it was time again to take a look at autism insurance reform for proven therapies.

"Autism is one disorder that really doesn't have a home. If your child has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), then that is covered by health insurance," he said. "There are a lot of other similar disorders that are covered by insurance, but autism simply does not have a home. It's not really considered a developmental disability."

Nelson said that autism is not really considered a purely educational or health issue. He said this belief leaves families without access to services for their children, which prohibits them from leading a productive adult life.

Nelson introduced HB 2962, that passed through the House Insurance Committee Feb. 29, with a vote of 6-4.

"I would caution to prepare for the long haul. I don't know that we get it all the way through this year. I hope we do," he said. "…If we don't get the bill through this year, then of course we'll continue to work to educate members and come back next year and the year after that until we have sufficiently answered their questions and done what we can to control costs and maintain some level of benefit."

Nelson said that this proposal is different from the one in 2008 because it is walking a fine bipartisan line in providing services for families while also being sensitive to the rising costs of health insurance.

He expects that many changes will be made to the legislation before it is passed.

A combination of health and education services

At the Oklahoma Autism Center, McBride said they are working with Sooner Start, a state intervention program for young children with developmental disabilities, to provide ABA techniques for one hour a week to toddlers in community childcare centers and mother's day out programs.

As far as the proposed legislation is concerned, she said anything would be helpful at this point.

"It's not going to help all of the families by any means, but is a really, really positive start because right now private insurance companies who provide the very services that they're asking for be provided in our state, they provide it for other families in other states," McBride said. "I mean, the very same insurance companies."

She said the legislation impacts families with private insurance, but that there is still a need in the public service sector.

"We could have a really big impact on their future as well by investing in support for schools to be able to improve educational programs for kids with autism," McBride said. "Again, that takes both having teachers… But we also need professional development for teachers who are already teaching."

McBride suggested that the issues surrounding autism should be addressed through both the educational and medical disciplines.

"It's not helpful to try to say it's one or the other. I think it's both and we've really ignored both for a long time in our state and it's time we pay attention to it," she said.

Dawson believes that ignoring evidence-based knowledge is crippling children with autism and leading to problems down the road.

"If you get these children the early intervention that they need before they are so set in some of these ways, the kids they become so routine oriented," she said.

Dawson explained how this inhibits development.

"It's so routine based if you don't kind of interrupt that now when they're young and still kind of teachable level, it just becomes that much harder later and that's when they become unemployable,

Autism ~ 4

Native bullying victim rates above national average

Advocate discusses strategies for parents

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I'm a little boy with glasses, the one they call the geek. A little girl who never smiles because I have braces on my teeth. And I know how it feels to cry myself to sleep," are the lyrics to 'Don't Laugh At Me' released in 1998 by artist Mark Wills.

According to the Native Health News Alliance, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in 2013 that 21.4 percent of Native American youth reported being bullied at school at least once in the past year.

The CDC reported the national average for the same time period was 19.6 percent.

The same study found that 18 percent of Native American youth reported electronic bullying during a 12-month period. The national average for electronic bullying of youth was 14.8 percent.

Kirk Smalley, an advocate with Stand for the Silent, has made it his mission to stop bullying.

"We actually know of over 55,000 kids that have taken their own lives due to bullying in the last seven years here in America alone," he said. "And if you do the math, that actually equates to almost one an hour."

Smalley lost his 11-year-old son Ty to suicide in 2010 in Perkins after he was bullied at school for two years.

"Our baby has been gone for 2,063 days now, and we miss him every second of every single day," Smalley said.

Smalley believes part of the bullying problem began when the younger generations became desensitized to violence through media.

He referred to 'South Park,' an adult cartoon that airs on Comedy Central, where a child named Kenny meets death every episode only to return to life the next show.

"What's that teaching our kids? He's back tomorrow. That's teaching our children that death is not real, that you get to come back tomorrow," Smalley said. "But you know what? My wife and I can attest to you that death is real and they don't come back tomorrow."

Where did my child learn to bully?

"We're not born to hate. Hatred is something that's learned. We learn it from the people around us and it can be unlearned," Smalley said.

Smalley said that most bullies are mimicking behavior they have seen elsewhere.

"They see bullying on TV. They see it in politics. They see it in our sporting events. They see it in the workplace," he said. "It surrounds them everywhere they look."

In an example, Smalley referred to attitudes and behaviors that he found himself guilty of.

"My choice of words wasn't always child appropriate… I had road rage a lot," Smalley said. "I spent a lot of time driving to and from work and somebody would pull out in front of me and I would just, I'd invent new words, just light them up."

He realized that his son was watching this behavior.

Smalley said that he does not think parents intend to pass bullying behavior on to their children.

Why does bullying seem more prevalent than back in the day?

"In my day, if I was being bullied, it happened physically. It was upfront, face-to-face, in person," Smalley said. "We would go out behind the gym and settle it maybe… they didn't have the option to at midnight on Saturday night post something online that went viral, that could be seen all over the world by hundreds of thousands of people."

In today's time, Smalley said that bullying not only occurs at school, but has also transferred to the technology arena where battles can be fought 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with or without the victim.

He said technology has created the ability to, "ruin someone's life at the click of a button" by posting an altered photo or defamatory statement to the Internet for the world to see.

Smalley said the common parenting mistake is to remove their child from social media platforms, or take away smartphone privileges.

"That's not an answer because that's still out there," he said. "The other kids, the bullies, the ones that are cyber bullying are still able to do that to this child now and that kid, the victim of it doesn't have a clue what's going on."

One application, or app called After School, allows youth to make anonymous posts.

"It's just basically an app that they get on and slam people and just hurt each other and hurt others as much as they can," Smalley said.

He suggested parents look into parental controls such as TeenSafe to monitor their child's smartphone habits.

Smalley said that the real answer to the bullying issue is to teach the bully about the impact of their words and actions.

Where do I start the conversation?

"A lot of it is, we have lost the ability to communicate with our children too. Most people sit and eat dinner around a television set. We don't sit at the dinner table and have a meaningful conversation," Smalley said.

During one of his trips, Smalley said he encountered a family of five at dinner.

He watched as they all amused themselves with their smartphones instead of conversing and enjoying each other's company.

Smalley said parents presume they are accomplishing their parental duties by simply asking, 'How was school?'

"That's not communicating. Those kids say that, 'my day was OK,' or 'it was fine,' because they think that's what you want to hear," he said. "We have to start learning to ask them real questions."

What do I say?

In speaking with school counselors during his advocacy tours, he met individuals who could recount vivid bullying images from their childhood that still affect them today.

"That shows that bullying is a life changing event," Smalley said.

He said that as he was dealing with the bullying of his son, the school would say that bullying was part of a normal childhood.

Earlier in his life, Smalley said he would have agreed that children should toughen up and not let words get to them.

Now, he acknowledges that words can have a tremendous impact on an individual.

When it comes to taking action against bullying, Smalley suggested parents urge their children to speak out against bullying.

"You can be the bully, you can be the victim or you can be a bystander," he said. "And what we have to do is we have to get those bystanders involved and standing up and helping stop this because there's more bystanders than there are victims or bullies."

Smalley said it only takes one bystander to stand up against bullying behavior to empower others to do the same.

He also believes children should learn to respect each individual and to remind others that everyone is somebody.

"We don't have to like each other," Smalley said. "We don't have to like everything about each other but we have to at least allow people to be who they are."

National No Name Calling Week is Jan. 18-22.

For more information about talking to children about bullying, visit: www.stopbullying.gov.

For more information about Stand for the Silent, visit: www.standforthesilent.org.

To speak with someone about bullying, call Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services at: 918-224-9307.

Deficit

Continued from page 1

did not receive a response as of press time.

The legislation states that purchases at the end of 2013 such as the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center, now known as MCN Rehabilitation Center and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, now known as MCN Medical Center caused MCNDH to operate at a deficit since their purchase.

The legislation states MCNDH ended fiscal year 2015 with a $29 million deficit, and is projected to continue operating in a deficit this year and in the future considering current operational practices and planned expansions.

The legislation states the Council was made aware of the deficit by the executive branch Feb. 18. During a March 15 committee meeting, the MCNDH Governing Board stated they were previously unaware of the deficit.

Rep. Randall Hicks said during the March 21 Council meeting that people need to be held accountable if the legislation was approved.

"I know we all preached accountability… and to me, somebody's got to be held responsible for this. I mean, I have a hard time accepting that the governing board was not aware of this deficit," Hicks said.

The legislation states that FY 2015 quarterly reports do not indicate a deficit.

MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger provided a written statement regarding involvement in the matter by his office.

'The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of the Attorney General will continue to monitor and assess the MCNDH Budget Deficit. At this time, we do not have any further comments.'

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said in a written statement that his office is reviewing options with patients in mind.

'We are now starting the process of making decisions with an outside Health source to help lead quality/access/cost-saving initiatives. Right now our goal is to ensure the quality health care with our health system.'

Citizens with comments and solutions for the re-alignment of the MCN health system are encouraged to call: 918-756-4333 ext. 271, email: healthbudget@creekhealth.org or send a letter to: MCN Department of Health, Attn: John Beaver, Chief Legislative Officer, P.O. Box 400, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

'MNN' will continue to follow the story and will provide in depth coverage of the situation in a later edition.

'MNN' requested a copy of the 2015 and 2016 Comprehensive Annual Budget, a copy of MCNDH 2015 end of year financials and quarterly reports since the end of the year on March 7 and has not received the documents as of press time.

'MNN' requested a copy of the audit that reportedly led to the MCNDH deficit discovery March 22 and did not receive it as of press time.

Autism

Continued from page 3

and that's when they become adults that don't ever leave home and don't ever get to get a higher education past high school or even lower than that," she said.

Dawson said there is also a need for job training and housing facilities for adults with autism.

The Muscogee (Creek) family is utilizing the 30 minutes per week of speech therapy that their insurance covers.

They pay an extra $40 per week to increase the session to an hour.

The mother said she justifies the extra expense because of the distance they have to travel to receive the therapy in Broken Arrow.

"HB 2962 would allow him to get the intense services that he needs," she said. "So it would be life changing for him, meaning that today, he's not able to do what most four-year-olds can do. But with a year of ABA, he could be close to right on target for his development, which is going to impact the rest of his life. So, it means everything for this to be passed."

She hopes that one day her son can receive ABA therapy to help him engage more with his entire family and have friendships and relationships.

Another thought also crossed her mind.

"I've read several articles where other parents have relocated because other states are offering this to families," the mother said. "So it does cross my mind, 'Should I live here or should I not?'

"Of course I want to live here because this is where my people are from… but it does leave me wondering, 'What if I was somewhere else?' "

According to the Oklahoma State Legislature website, HB 2962 passed in the House March 9 by a 76-20 vote.

For more information about the bill, visit: http://tinyurl.com/je6r7nd.

For more information about the Oklahoma Autism Center, visit: www.autismcenterok.org.

For more information about Autism Oklahoma, visit: www.autismoklahoma.org.

The 2016 PieceWalk and 5K will be held May 7 at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City. For more information visit: www.piecewalk.org.

Coming and Going with Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo-Sapulpa
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

TULSA, Okla. — I don't believe we have ever seen such a proliferation of presidential debates, nor such an outrageous slate of candidates representing one party in particular. One presidential candidate, whose name I won't repeat because to repeat it gives him power, leaves a hate wake behind him with nearly every speech he makes.

All this makes me wonder about the qualifications for being a leader. What makes a leader has always been pretty much universal, but given the current state of U.S. political affairs, it appears that being a bully, hateful and obnoxious have replaced the standard leadership characteristics that include fairness, wisdom and the ability to listen.

There are few legal qualifications for running for president of the United States. You must be a natural born citizen, 35 years-of-age and a U.S. resident for at least 14 years. The unspoken qualification for running is the ability to garner enough financial and political support.

When you consider the responsibilities of the presidential role, which is essentially running all internal and external affairs for a world power, then the lack of qualifications required is nothing less than astounding.

What makes for an honorable and wise leader includes these character traits:

Humility/Eyasketv: We help each other. No one is above anyone else.

Integrity/Fvtcetv: We take responsibility.

Community /Emetvl'hvmke: Comunity gain is above personal benefit.

Responsibility/Emenhonrvke Tayat: To be loyal and reliable in all things.

Wisdom/Hoporrenkv: To listen and pay attention to the wise ones. To continue to keep your ears open more than your mouth.

Compassion/Vnoketkv: A great tenderness for living beings and the living being-ness within all life.

These traits hold true for our own Muscogee (Creek) Nation, principal chief candidates. The qualifications are also fairly minimal. Each candidate must be at least a one-quarter blood enrolled citizen, 30 years-of-age, reside within the MCN boundaries, be a registered voter for at least six months and carry no felony convictions.

(Up until 1973, the U.S. president appointed our principal chiefs. You can imagine how that skewed qualifications.)

Candidates running for office in our Nation should be knowledgeable in tribal history, government (including the governments that a chief and contemporary tribal government must deal with such as the workings of area municipalities, the state of Oklahoma and federal government) and be at least familiar with our traditional/cultural knowledge and arts.

"Leaders are chosen. They do not assert themselves in these positions."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo

Why not test each candidate for this knowledge? We may even want to consider a change in how we conduct our elections for principal chief or even National Council representatives.

In the traditional way, those who know things watch for qualities of leadership in those coming up. Leaders often reveal themselves early in childhood. Others emerge later from the school of hard knocks.

Leaders are chosen. They do not assert themselves into these positions. And why not turn to a more traditional manner of assigning leadership? Why not allow the community, those who know, to put forth candidates based on their leadership traits, their commitment to serve the people and their knowledge and abilities?

I don't know as much as many others about these things, but I do know this: talking politics or religion can sure get you into trouble.

Have a good one.

Graduate profiles due May 13

MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will be featuring 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the 'MNN.' Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation. A recent digital photo should also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 13 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

EMVPANAYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what we could find from taking a quick look at those who are left in the race.

Bernie Sanders added a Native advisor, Nicole Willis. He has also hit the subject of Indian health funding. Sanders recently visited the Navajo reservation in Arizona. There are a lot of Navajo and they represent a large voting block. He has visited Indian Country in the Northwest and Iowa where he had warm receptions.

The reception was not so warm, however, in Minneapolis, where American Indian Movement leader, Clyde Bellecourt insisted that Sanders answer a question on enforcement of treaty rights.

Sanders answered, "The Native American people have gotten a terrible deal from the federal government. I will do everything I can to redress that, absolutely." Sanders was a co-sponsor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Hillary Clinton has had Red Lake Minnesota Ojibwe citizen Holly Cook Macarro and Navajo Nation citizen Charles Galbraith as advisors. Her website includes a spot where Natives can, 'host an event.' It does show concerns for health, the government-to-government relationship and a number of specific topics high on Native agendas. She also mentions support for VAWA.

The only thing on Ted Cruz that I managed to run across was a FAKE news story that said Cruz blamed the flooding in Texas on Native American rain dances. Natives, he said, were mad at the way their issues had been treated in Texas. Remember: FAKE—not real, made up.

Donald Trump has had nothing positive to report. Older news story topics include attacks on the racial make-up and casino competition from the Pequots and competition from the Akwesasne Mohawks. Haven't seen anything on the plus side or much lately at all. Whose casino went bankrupt and whose didn't?

The author of the popular Harry Potter books has riled up Native folks with her latest work, 'Magic in North America.' Native critics claim J.K. Rowling kind of lumps Native, "witches and wizards" together, borrowing from several tribes' traditions. 'One size fits all,' does not work here Ms. Rowling.

OK, ready for the next round of the 'Museum That Would Not Die?'

According to local news reports, the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum (AICCM) might be completed through a recently announced deal with Oklahoma City, the Chickasaw Nation and the state of Oklahoma.

In mid-March, the latest accord would have Oklahoma City finish construction and maintain the place, if the city gets the surrounding land for its own use, whatever that may be. If the city and state can't work out a partnership with the Chickasaws, the agreement is off. That tribe offered to ante up a yet-to-be-determined amount to help get the thing finished.

Remember, this whole mess started as a state project. According a AICCM website timeline, 'In September 1994, the creation of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority, (NACEA) a State agency, by legislation Title 74, Section 1226. The State appointed the NACEA Board of Directors and the design and planning team was selected.'

OK now, is everything as clear as mud?

Speaking of mud, local news agencies report that the Vision Tulsa backers hoped MCN would fund an endowment to cover maintenance costs for two low-water Arkansas River dams proposed in the measure. They listed MCN as stakeholders in the package, citing the River Spirit Casino expansion and RiverWalk business development along the river.

They hope to foster approval from Tulsa and Jenks voters for the April 5 ballot measure. Proposition No. 3, sales tax for economic development, partially reads, 'The tax is intended to provide for a list of projects agreed upon by city officials that includes two low-water dams in Arkansas River corridor development.'

Not so, said Chief Floyd's office. Maybe later.

The new plan is to eliminate one dam from the measure, which was planned for the south Tulsa area.

Now, for something on the lighter side.

Have you been enjoying the wild onion dinners? It was a busy season of churches and Native civic groups with tafvmpuce dinners as fundraisers. It works for me.

It seems like it doesn't matter how early I showed up to pick up a couple of meals, 'poof,' there was always a line appearing ahead of me. (Maybe J.K. Rowling did it?) I worried about the sponsors running out of wild onions.

A special treat this year was getting wild onions without having to wait in a long line. Our staff shared a lunch at our office and we had wild onions as one of the dishes, courtesy of our own skillet wizard, Jamie Roland (See some thoughts from Rolland regarding this tradition on page 12) and Wilma Murphy provided chicken. Thank you, dears, Mvto Cukpe Hvmken!

On top of that, my Ojibwe wife, Ramona, decided to learn to cook them at home. She's more used to cooking wild rice called 'Mahnomen,' but her first attempt with wild onions turned out pretty good. I guess I'll have to find her a big ol' cast-iron skillet and build a fire in the backyard. Kind of nice, not having to wait in line for tafvmpuce. I could get used to that (I hope!) Hvtvm cehecares—I'll see you again.

A MCN Citizen Owned Business

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Cultural

Continued from page 1

sult in the state of Georgia."

Butler explained that this legislation refers to different projects than those that are federally funded.

"Tribes come into play when it's a federally funded project and in this referring to state funded transportation projects but from my understanding, the Georgia Department of Transportation has recently received a lot of state funding to carry out their transportation projects," she said.

Butler said due to a bill that passed last year, the majority of transportation projects in Georgia are state funded instead of federally funded.

"So what that means is the regulations and kind of protection that sacred sites or cultural resources, environmental studies, those kind of get overlooked because that federal funding isn't involved," she said.

For state funded projects, Georgia follows the state Environmental Policy Act, which requires environmental or cultural resource assessment to be conducted.

"But what this bill does is in saying that any project that's under $100 million no longer has to follow that state requirement," Butler said.

She said that this bill would leave MCN out of the equation and not allow the Nation to comment on or be made aware of projects that could intersect with tribal towns, burial grounds, sacred places or other culturally relevant sites. MCN has historic interest in the entire state of Georgia. Many sites are undocumented or unknown.

"Sometimes we do get notified about that. It's called an inadvertent discovery that happens. No one anticipated it happening, but it happens and then the tribes are notified on how to proceed," Butler said.

She said the Georgia Department of Transportation currently sends MCN notification for state funded projects.

"Generally speaking, Georgia Department of Transportation has been a great federal partner along with the Federal Highways Administration. So, this bill kind of comes as a surprise to us," Butler said.

In a written statement dated March 8, SB 346 sponsor Sen. Brandon Beach said that the bill does not remove the coverage of historic and burial sites.

'Because of the commitment and foresight from the General Assembly, Georgia has the ability to invest in transportation infrastructure improvements and repairs across the state. Under existing law, as a part of the approval process, each project is required to comply with six state environmental standards.

'One of these required standards is defined in the Georgia Abandoned Cemetery and Burial Grounds Act. This covers historical sites used for burial or cemetery purposes.'

Beach also said the bill would save taxpayer money.

'SB 346 allows the Georgia Department of Transportation the ability to forego an Environmental Effects Report, which consumes tax payer dollars and takes months to compile and approve, if and only if the project that has passed the standards of the six environmental studies currently required by law. This potential exemption would only apply to projects using state funds that cost less than $100 million. The use of a federal dollar requires following federal environmental regulations.'

Butler estimated that CPD reviewed over 2,000 projects from 12 states in the last year.

MCN is consulted on federal projects through the full states of Alabama, Georgia and portions of Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

"The majority of our projects come from Alabama and Georgia," Butler said.

She estimated the department reviewed 70 transportation projects with the Alabama Department of Transportation last year. She estimated the combined number of transportation projects for Alabama and Georgia to be at 200.

Butler said legally, projects that are funded with federal money, federal grants or require a federal permit and will cause ground disturbance require notification be provided to the tribes who were historically in the area.

"I think that we all should be aware of things that happen at Hickory (Ceremonial) Ground and we want to make sure that nothing like that ever happens again," she said. "I think that what's important that we kind of come as a unified front in saying that our voice would no longer be heard to protect.

"We would no longer have the right to protect our cultural resources or environmental resources if this law passes in Georgia."

Georgia is the home to the federally protected Etowah Indian Mounds, and Ocmulgee National Monument, which has a 1,000-year-old earth lodge.

"We have such precious cultural resources that are non-renewable. Once they're destroyed or once they're disturbed, they can't be replaced," Butler said. "So if this bill does pass, basically it takes away our right to protect them."

The 'Muscogee Nation News' reached out to MCN Principal Chief James Floyd, MCN National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee Chairperson Darrell Proctor and Georgia State Senator and legislation sponsor Jeff Mullis and did not receive statements by press time.

As of March 22, a substitute version of the bill passed the Georgia House of Representatives. To track legislation signed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal visit: http://tinyurl.com/hmu66tv.

Citizenship

Continued from page 1

the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection Agency, which regulates the entrance of people into the U.S.

The legislation states that the federal agency would like to include enhanced tribal identification cards on its list of documents citizens can use to gain entrance to the U.S.

MCN Citizenship Office Director Nathan Wilson said the new identification card would act as a passport through the western hemisphere, similar to a U.S. passport card, and not a full passport.

The new card could be utilized by other MCN programs and departments, and would also be compliant with the REAL ID Act.

"Right now Oklahoma is kind of in limbo with the REAL ID Act… Our card right now is able to be used, but with them being in limbo, it could affect that card later on in the future," Wilson said. "If we do move to this, then we'll be one step in front of Oklahoma with this new card."

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website the REAL ID Act, 'enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government, "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." '

The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards.

'States have made considerable progress in meeting this key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and every state has a more secure driver's license today than before the passage of the Act.'

The application for the new MCN citizenship card will require an in-person interview, and be an option for citizens as a secondary citizenship identification card for tribal services.

Wilson said the new card will not be mandatory initially, but that they would like to work with the Council and executive branch to make it mandatory.

"We want to but I think looking at trying to make that happen, just for instance our card that we have currently that we started in 2013, we don't even have half of the citizens that even switched over to that new card yet," he said.

If the legislation is approved, Wilson said MCN will be the first tribe in Oklahoma to offer a citizenship card that is also a passport card.

He also said it would help save the Nation money.

"This is just going to benefit the tribe," Wilson said. "I think it will save us money in the long run because we provide services to these citizens and we remove people on a monthly basis and some of these people might still be getting money and they're removed."

MCN Citizenship Board Chairman Nelson Harjo said that approving the passport card legislation could be the first step to a full passport.

"We get something of this nature in place then maybe one day should that open up for us, then we could apply to have our card, Creek Nation's card, your tribal membership card, it'll be just a regular passport that will take you throughout the world," he said.

The legislation passed with a vote of 4-0 during the HEW committee session.

The resolution passed with a vote of 15-0 during the Council regular session.

In a 2010 'New York Times' article, the Iroquois national lacrosse team was denied entry to the United Kingdom using their tribal passports for the world lacrosse championship.

British officials stated that they would not accept the tribal documents because of security concerns. They asked the U.S. to vouch for the tribal passports, which the U.S. refused to do.

Special appropriation

NCA 16-040 would approve an $89,195 special appropriation to the Citizenship Office to fund two new positions for the remainder of fiscal year 2016.

Wilson said it goes hand-in-hand with the other bills because the funding would pay salaries for an additional information technology position and a marketing position.

"With us having two different offices now, so it's kind of putting that along with a new card, it's going to be a lot," he said.

The IT position would help establish a firewall and secure system to comply with standards for issuing passport cards.

The other employee would be to market and sell the new database.

"The current database that we have now, we have two tribes that are interested in… So we're wanting to start marketing and try to sell this database so we can supplement some of our budget without coming to Council and asking for that," Wilson said.

He said they have applied for a grant to assist in the expenses of the database and costs associated with issuing passport cards.

Wilson said if they receive the grant, they can only utilize three percent of those funds for salaries.

The majority of the funds must go towards things such as equipment.

He said that the marketing employee will also help market their Jenks office as well as this service.

Wilson said the office expects to meet the grant application deadline in April. He said they will know if they are to receive grant funds in summer 2016, and then receive the funds by the end of the year.

The legislation passed 3-1 at the HEW committee session, with Rep. James Jennings voting against it.

The appropriation was postponed indefinitely at the March 17 Council regular session.

During the session, the bill's sponsor Rep. Dode Barnett asked Wilson if his office could do without the appropriation citing MCN financial issues and encouraged him to use their plan to sell the database to cover this expense.

Wilson agreed to continue without additional funding.

Verifying death records

TR 16-034 would approve an agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce National Technical Information Service.

The agreement would allow the MCN Citizenship Office access to the current and updated Social Security Death Index, and allow them to remove deceased Muscogee (Creek) citizens from the database.

"We do work through the Social Services Office for burial assistance and get it through that way, but a lot of our people they live out of state and stuff like that so this is a way to update our record to make sure that we have a good and active count when it comes to deceased people," Wilson said.

He said that they will share the information with the MCN Election Board.

"We do send a list to the Election Board every time we relinquish or remove and stuff like that," Wilson said. "So, we do communicate with them and send the list out to them."

The legislation passed 4-0 at the HEW committee session, and passed with a vote of 15-0 at the Council regular session.

Citizens can listen to the archived audio of committee meetings by going to the National Council website at: www.mcnnc.com.

To listen to the HEW Committee meeting from March 7, visit: www.mcnnc.com/index.php/archived-committee-meetings, and select play under the file name 030716_hew.

Full copies of the legislation can be viewed by going to the Council's website, selecting 'Download Agenda' in the menu and selecting the agenda on which the legislation was discussed.

Download the pdf file to the computer and open the file using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

For more information regarding proposed legislation, call the National Council at: 918-758-1410.

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inated Hawkins for approval to serve as the chief of police for the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department.

NCA 16-039 aimed at decreasing the educational requirements for the position was postponed for one month during the March 10 Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' spoke with Randolph who made the motion to postpone and he said he did not believe in tailoring the legal requirements for a position to a particular person but that he was pleased with the ideas Hawkins had for the job and his outlook on it.

Hawkins was recomissioned as LTPD chief March 19 in accordance with Article 5, Section 2 (c) of the MCN Constitution, which states, 'The Principal Chief shall have the power to fill vacancies by granting commissions which shall expire at the beginning of the next National Council meeting.'

• **TR 16-026 Authorizing the execution of a memorandum of agreement regarding an enhanced tribal card program. Reps. Johnnie Greene and Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Starting on page one, see more information under: 'Council's HEW Committee passes legislation regarding Citizenship Office.'

• **TR 16-027 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an installation and implementation agreement between MCN and Dell for the MCN Department of Health. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The bill authorizes MCNDH to get a service the department needs from Dell.

• **TR 16-028 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Muskogee County for improvements to Wainwright Road. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The proposed project involves the creation of paved shoulders and new asphalt for the road. MCN will pay all reasonable and agreed upon costs of the estimated $4,077,745.75 for the project out of the tribe's Federal Highway Administration Funding. MCN will provide preconstruction work, award contracts as well as monitor and inspect the work with Muskogee County assuming responsibility for maintenance and repair afterwards.

• **TR 16-029 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with six Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

TTP has federal funds available to cover infrastructure projects in these counties and the counties will cover maintenance and repair after the projects are done.

• **TR 16-030 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a separate memorandum of understanding with four Oklahoma cities for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights of way constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

TTP has federal funds available to cover infrastructure projects in these cities and the cities will cover maintenance and repair after the projects are done.

• **TR 16-031 Confirming the nomination of Christopher Azbell to serve as secretary of MCN Interior Affairs. Reps. Del Beaver and David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. James Jennings and Greene voting against it.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd nominated Azbell for approval.

The term will end with Floyd's concurrent term. Jennings and Greene declined to comment on their votes.

View Azbell's submitted biography on page eight.

• **TR 16-032 Approving the MCN long-range transportation plan with the addition of routes identified in the long-range transportation plan. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-1 with Yahola voting against it.**

New routes have been identified to add to MCN's Bureau of Indian Affairs program inventory through MCN TTP.

• **TR 16-033 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Okfuskee County Health Department for the purpose of storing vaccines. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

In the event of a power outage, emergency or disaster that affects the medical facilities, MCNDH and Okfuskee County wish to coordinate resources to provide the best storage for their vaccines.

• **TR 16-034 Authorizing the execution of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce National Technical Information Service for the MCN Citizenship Department. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Starting on page one, see more information under: 'Council's HEW Committee passes legislation regarding Citizenship Office.'

• **TR 16-035 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with Jake's Fireworks Inc. on behalf of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The company is offering GCIC $2,500 to lease the property for 18 days.

• **TR 16-036 Confirming the nomination of Paula Willits to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-4 with Randolph, Barnett, Scott and Jack voting against it.**

Tribal law requires Council approval for this position.

• **TR 16-037 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a grant application to the Children and Families Administration for Native Americans, Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies, for funds to assist Morris Creek Indian Community with economic development. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The community would like to use the grant to create a farmer's market on 30 acres they have ready for development.

The one year budgeted amount for the project is $150,000 and 20 percent of this must be matched for a total of $30,000 by the recipient to be eligible.

If Morris community receives the grant, the Council will commit to match funds and the community expects in-kind contributions to possibly decrease the amount needed. Discussion at the meeting indicated this is the first time an MCN chartered community applied for an economic development grant. The legislation states MCN will administer the grant if it is awarded.

MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger expressed concerns during the meeting about the infrastructure available to manage the grant but said his office is working on a flow chart to fulfill this need in the future.

• **TR 16-038 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an education agreement between the MCNDH and Oklahoma State University for the purpose of receiving HAZWOPER training. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

This training also known as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, is necessary for MCNDH to fulfill Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements.

• **TR 16-039 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with Okmulgee County and the City of Okmulgee for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-way constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

TTP has federal funds available to cover infrastructure projects in this area and the governments benefiting from these services will cover maintenance and repair after the projects are done.

• **TR 16-040 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a validation of procedure with the Federal Highway Administration in collaboration with Mississippi State entities and other certain tribal nations for the implementation of Section 106 consultation protocols for transportation projects in Mississippi. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

These state entities wish to help FHA in complying with requirements pertaining to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to consider the impact of their projects on historic properties and those parties with an interest in these properties, allowing them time to comment on the projects.

• **TR 16-041 Supporting a partnership with the City of Okmulgee for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation safe routes to school grant. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Okmulgee has prepared an application for the grant and plans to use it for improving pedestrian connections to Okmulgee High School and Okmulgee Primary School along Okmulgee Avenue.

This is an 80/20 matching grant. ODOT would provide $870,645 with MCN TTP matching $174,129 out of its federal road funds if the grant is awarded.

• **TR 16-042 Authorizing GOAB to execute a 401K plan and all of its ancillary documents with Bank of Oklahoma Financial, National Association. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to continue providing retirement benefits for MCN gaming employees and needs Council approval to use this plan since it includes federal law provisions and the term is over a year.

• **TR 16-043 Calling on the National Indian Gaming Association to adopt a policy against conducting commercial gaming on lands that are declared sacred by an Indian tribe or Native Nation that historically occupied those lands. Hill originally sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0 and the remaining Council were added as cosponsors.**

The primary objective of NIGA, a voluntary organization, is to promote, protect and preserve the general welfare and interest of Indian gaming tribes through the development of sound policies and practices with respect to the conduct of gaming activities in Indian Country.

MCN believes it is necessary for NIGA to develop policy against gaming on sacred lands.

MCN has an ongoing dis-

Council - 8

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Bio for MCN Secretary of the Interior Christopher Azbell



Okmulgee Main Street website

Christopher Azbell
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Christopher Allen Azbell graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1996 and attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where he received a bachelor of science in environmental science in 2001.

After working for a year with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission – Water Quality Division, Azbell returned to OSU to pursue a post-graduate degree in political science with an emphasis in public administration and public policy.

During his post-graduate studies, Azbell interned with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court and shortly thereafter was hired as the administrator of special projects.

During this tenure with the court, Azbell wrote and was awarded several grants including the Tribal Courts Assistance Grant and the Tribal Child Support Enforcement Grant.

The latter grant initiated the tribal child support program, which is still operates today.

In addition, Azbell assisted in programmatic endeavors including the Mvskoke Bow Society, MCN Challenge Bowl, updating of the MCN Code Annotated and was a founding member of the MCN Emergency Management Team.

In 2011, Azbell graduated from the Okmulgee Leadership Program and was subsequently appointed to the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

At this time, Azbell also served on the board for the Friends of Okmulgee State Park and served a one-year stint as president.

Azbell quickly rose through the ranks of the Chamber Board where he served as vice chairman of the executive committee and served a two-year term as the chairman/president of the board.

In April of 2013, Azbell was appointed to the Okmulgee City Council where he fulfilled an unexpired term for Ward 2.

In February 2014, Azbell was re-elected to the seat of Ward 2 for a three-year term.

In his capacity on the City Council, Azbell was nominated to be vice-mayor for 2014 and 2015.

In addition, Azbell serves on the board of directors of Okmulgee Main Street and also sits on the executive committee as the city representative.

As you can see, Azbell has been very involved with the City of Okmulgee and has forged collaborative partnerships with the local community and MCN.

In a time of limited resources and tightening budgets, collaboration is the most efficient way to move forward with strategic and comprehensive goals of the community.

The City of Okmulgee not only serves as the seat of Okmulgee County but also as the capitol of MCN.

In sum, Azbell has been an active member in the local and tribal community. As a committed and selfless public servant, Azbell seeks what is best for the citizenry and believes in the spirit of volunteerism and collaboration as a means to a positive end.

In the words of President Harry S. Truman, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

pute with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, which is based in Alabama due to PBCI gaming development on original Muscogee (Creek) sacred grounds. MCN claims to have supported PBCI in gaining federal recognition with the understanding they would protect such lands.

• **NCA 16-030 Authorizing the expenditure of $216,566 awarded from the U.S. Department of House and Urban Development for the tribal HUD Veterans Affairs supportive Housing HUD-VASH demonstration program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro announced Jan. 8 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting, that HUD would provide new funding to assist Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk for it.

MCN is slated for $216,566 through 20 vouchers to assist Mvskoke veterans.

• **NCA 16-032 Authorizing a $10,040 appropriation to sponsor the United National Indian Tribal Youth 2016 National Unity Conference. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-4 with Reps. Del Beaver, Darrell Proctor, Jennings and Jones voting against it.**

UNITY is the largest Native youth network in the country and has developed a positive reputation in empowering and serving these youth since being established in 1976.

As a sponsor, the MCN seal will be displayed throughout material for the conference and organization.

• **NCA 16-034 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Housing Homeownership Program fiscal year 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

Housing will draw from four different line items in their budget for the Homeownership Program to cover costs for a facility to store Structurally Insulated Panels, mowing expenses for vacant lots and acquisition yards and two additional vehicles while trading in three old ones.

• **NCA 16-036 Appropriating $782,549 to the Mound Building Oversight Committee for the second phase of the Mound Building renovation. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Randolph and Jennings voting against it.**

Renovations were started through a prior appropriation due leaks and mold issues at the Mound. This would cover the second part of the project.

Jennings said during the meeting that he could not support it due to the state of MCN financials.

• **NCA 16-037 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Muskogee High School Native American Students Advocacy. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The organization is asking for assistance to cover their senior powwow. The total budget for it is $5,185 and the students have raised $1,078.01 and are planning to raise additional funds by hosting a basketball tournament.

• **NCA 16-038 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 6, Chapter 3 titled, 'Protection from Domestic and Family Violence Act' and amending MCNCA Title 27 sub-sections 1-102 and 2-111 and Appendix 1, Rule 13 titled, 'Selection of Jurors' and amending MCNCA Title 14, Chapter 1 and 2. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

This approves the MCN laws to implement Violence Against Women Act provisions at the Nation.

VAWA, a federal law, was reauthorized in 2013 with language allowing individual tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native sexual violence occurring on their land.

• **NCA 16-040 Authorizing an $89,195 supplemental appropriation to the MCN Citizenship Board Office FY 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.**

Starting on page one, see more information under: 'Council's HEW Committee passes legislation regarding Citizenship Office.'

• **NCA 16-041 Authorizing a $3,030.45 appropriation to repay the MCN Family Violence – Stop Violence Against Women Project. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

There was a balance of this amount at the end of FY 2008 and an attempt was made to use the funds in FY 2011 but the U.S. Department of Justice asked for them to be returned in 2015 leaving a negative balance with the MCN Treasury that needs to be covered.

• **NCA 16-042 Authorizing the expenditure of $23,900 for the purchase of five 30-yard solid waste containers and one 20-yard solid wasted container for the MCN Environmental Services Department. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The request for solid waste water services from ceremonial grounds and communities has grown to the point where the department would like to use their funds to purchase these containers to keep up with demand. They will bid on them through the State Contractors Buying Cooperative to save money.

• **NCA 16-043 Authorizing the expenditure of $179,736 for the purchase of one Western Star 4700 roll-off chassis truck for the MCN Environmental Services Department. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

This truck is needed to continue the solid waste services mentioned in the previous legislation. The department plans to purchase this truck through the cooperative as well to save money.

• **NCA 16-044 Authorizing the Expenditure of $930,894 U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration 2016 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Grant funds for MCN TTP. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

MCN has received the funds and needs approval for TTP to expend them.

• **NCA 16-045 Authorizing a $93,847 appropriation to fund the costs associated with constructing a new gym floor for the Multi-Purpose Building. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which did not receive a second motion for the full vote.**

The floor would allow MCN to host sanctioned athletic events and provide a more quality base surface for the building to make it more sanitary and easy to clean as well as enhance recreational activities.

During the March 8 joint meeting of the Council Health, Education and Welfare, and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committees, Jennings said he could not support funding for this project due to a budget deficit at MCNDH.

The upcoming quarterly session is scheduled April 30.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: http://www.mcnnc.com, and the MCN Code Annotated is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session. For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



Dellinger confirmed as attorney general



Native News Today
Kevin Dellinger was confirmed by a 15-0 vote during the Jan. 30 Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council quarterly session.

New AG talks goals, roles and accomplishments

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Kevin Dellinger was nominated as Muscogee (Creek) Nation attorney general by MCN Principal Chief James Floyd. He was confirmed through TR 16-009 by a 15-0 vote during the Jan. 30 MCN National Council quarterly session.

Dellinger said he started with the tribe as assistant AG in 1996. From there, he served as MCN secretary of the Nation from 2008-2012 and then returned as assistant AG in 2012 before being confirmed as MCN AG.

He said the duty of his office is to provide legal representation for MCN as a whole.

"That involves providing legal counsel to the chief's office, the executive branch, departments, agencies and even the Council…" Dellinger said. They can request legal counsel from us as well."

Dellinger said this ultimately involves following the law.

"That means sometimes telling the Council we think they're wrong," he said. "That can mean telling the chief, 'Hey we think you're wrong' as well. Really we are to protect the Nation and provide the best legal service we can."

He explained how this is performed in instances where the two branches file legal actions on one another, such as last year when the Council Fact Finding Committee sought to question executive branch employees.

"…We just recommended that they subpoena them as the Council has the power to subpoena employees and tribal officers under the law," Dellinger said.

Dellinger summarized the outcome of this motion.

"They got what they needed and that will, in the long run, help the Council turn around and create some better laws," he said. "We can always improve the law and I think the outcome is that they're going to be able to improve our laws and those laws will be for the best for the Nation..."

Read more about the case here: http://tinyurl.com/jhu7emx.

Dellinger said his office is able to perform its duties in these situations based on how they are structured.

"We are an independent office of the Nation. We provide services to the chief. That's provided for under the law, or required under the law, that when he has questions or needs any assistance, we provide that," he said. "Also, we do that for the Council as well."

Dellinger said this service applies within and outside of the tribe.

"We are the office that represents the Nation in all capacities. That involves going to tribal court, federal court, state court and tribal court as well," he said. "The biggest thing we are charged with doing is protecting the sovereignty of the Nation."

He said this is sometimes done by handing cases to external agencies such as the prosecution of former MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett, who was charged with embezzlement by the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma and plead guilty Oct. 9, 2014.

"I think the reason for that situation, the pretty simple reason was, we felt that was the best way to prosecute the case," Dellinger said. "Taking a look at it, we determined that instead of going through the tribal court route, that going through the federal court would be the best way again, to protect the Nation and its assets."

Read more about this case here: http://tinyurl.com/h7tfuvc.

He said his office represents the Nation in a variety of ways.

"Writing legislation, reviewing contracts, issues with children and family services, adoptions, terminations, we do just about everything," Dellinger said.

Dellinger said this variety adds enjoyment to his job.

"I always told people, working for a tribe is one of the greatest things that an attorney can do because we have to be aware of tribal law, state law, federal law, local law, common law, traditional law, so you really get to do a little bit of everything," he said.

Dellinger expressed his excitement for one new duty in particular as his office was tasked through TR 16-026 and 027 to update the 'MCN Code Annotated.'

"In the past, that has been the responsibility of a three-member committee and that committee was made up of the chief, the speaker and the judge of the district court," he said. "Those are three pretty busy people and people who are hard to get together."

Dellinger outlined his greatest goal as AG.

"I hope the biggest thing and one of the biggest impacts I can make in the office directly is customer service," he said. "I think that is something we can always work at and always improve. I think we should always treat others the way we want to be treated."

Haumpy confirmed as tribal administrator

Haumpy shares background, plans

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Judy Haumpy was nominated as Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal administrator by MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

Haumpy was confirmed through TR 16-007 by a 11-4 vote during the Jan. 30 MCN National Council quarterly session.

"…You realize that the people that didn't vote for you represent constituents and from what I understand, their constituency didn't approve of that so I have to acknowledge that," she said. "I take the position that, if they don't have faith in me, that makes me work that much harder to prove myself."

She said this process internally is a matter of adjustment.

"In the first month, it is getting acclimated to the people and you know, personalities differ but we pretty much all have the same primary cause and it's to work for the people," Haumpy said.

Haumpy explained how she has done this while moving up in the tribe, applying what she learned from her first position as food nutrition specialist starting in 1982.

"…At that time I was with them, we were out in the snow, we were out in the rain, sleet, hot sun and I thought it was very embarrassing to be behind the truck handing out to our people and I thought, 'This could be my aunt, my grandmother. This could be my relatives' and I was very embarrassed by that," she said.

Later on, Haumpy said she got approval while working under former MCN Principal Chief Perry Beaver, to apply for a grant from the Indian Health Service, which was matched by the Council to build the MCN Food Distribution Center in Okmulgee.

"It was a great stride to know that people could drive up now and drive up under the awning and be protected from the elements," she said.

Haumpy said she plans to work on streamlining tribal services through her new position.

"Make them accessible by perhaps using our Internet," she said. "By posting more things on the Internet so they know what's available."

Haumpy outlined some of her other duties.

"It entails small things like overseeing a budget, helping someone correct a budget in addition to trying to find, our tribe is growing so large that we are running out of room," she said.

She said this is a challenge as the tribe continues to grow.

"So as a result of that, we're looking at trying to find offices for our staff because we're pretty much sitting on each other and we need more buildings," Haumpy said.

Haumpy said organizing to accommodate expansion also factors in.

"That was something that was mentioned this morning when we were talking, was trying to organize our campus so that we would have construction all in one area," she said.

She expressed optimism towards being able to address these issues.

"I feel like we're going to make good strides in this administration," Haumpy said. "I feel like there's always room for improvement and that means we're constantly looking at ways for our Nation to grow."

Veterans services director confirmed for third term

Davis reflects, discusses developments, praises staff and clients

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director Ken Davis was confirmed in his position for a third time through TR 16-006. MCN Principal Chief James Floyd nominated Davis who was approved 15-0 during the Jan. 30 MCN National Council quarterly session.

Davis has led MCN VASO from the beginning.

"This office actually opened September 2004 under the leadership of Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and of course the National Council," he said. "So the first day on the job was September 2004 and we've been going strong and it's been absolutely phenomenal."

He shared their purpose.

"The main goal, the main thrust here is to secure earned benefits and services for our Mvskoke veterans," Davis said. "We absolutely help them out in their claim for service connected, non-service connected benefits. Help them get into the medical system of the veterans administration and just trying to do everything we can for our veterans."

Davis is a major of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves where he served seven years, according to his biography submitted to the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

He also served four years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the Kuwait War in 1991.

He is of the Kecopatakv Tribal Town and Raccoon Clan.

Davis recognized a fellow veteran as a valued VASO consultant.

"Joe Taylor is a decorated combat veteran from the Vietnam War in the U.S. Marines, 3rd Marine Division," he said. "Unbelievably valued counselor, advisor, a highly intelligent individual and he's non-bureaucratic and not politically correct I might add and that adds a lot to everything."

Taylor recently assisted in a meeting to iron out details of a $216,566 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to help MCN house homeless Mvskoke veterans.

"Again, there's 20 vouchers only for Mvskoke veterans," Davis said "So what we do is, we go and assist these veterans that are homeless or are about to be on the verge of homelessness."

Davis said VASO has eight veterans lined up.

"The U.S. government awarded this grant but the money is still making its way down here," he said.

He also recognized former VASO staff.

"Of course we all remember Mrs. Fannie Barnett," Davis said. "Unfortunately, we lost her July 20, 2010 and we think about her every single day. Mrs. Barnett, you are absolutely missed."

Davis showed appreciation for current VASO employees.

"I work with two fine people, Miss Chelsie Dickerson who is our operations officer," he said. "She's young, learning quite fast actually. Then I work with Mr. Shawn Taryole."

Davis said Taryole has worked with him for eight years.

"I think the world of Shawn. I trust him. The veterans trust him and he operates from the standpoint of 'it's all about you, never about me,' " he said.

He acknowledged the role of current and former MCN leadership at VASO.

"There is a strong relationship between our tribal administration, our Council and its veterans," Davis said.

Davis pointed out how VASO is a leader.

"I would really use our tribe as a nationwide example," he said. "This is a tribal veterans entity. What can be done?"

He commented on the passage of free press legislation at MCN last year.

"We watched that episode very intently on that one because it is a free press," Davis said. "We view it as this, the day our press is muzzled is the day we're no longer free. A muzzled press is nothing but a slave so no, that will not be tolerated."

Davis believes children are also a priority and shared a recent experience where he went along to read at the MCN daycare in Sapulpa for Dr. Seuss Day.

"Actually, we called veterans and they're planning to rotate and we plan to hit every single one of our daycares once a month," he said. "Being around these two, three, four-year-old children, our babies, that's what it's all about. That's exactly why we did what we had to do and wanted to do."

He shared an appreciation for his job as a whole.

"Working with this staff, still to this day I still get butterflies coming into work," Davis said. "Because, one, I know what I get to do, I get to work with our men and women here."

Widows support group camp set April 15-16

ECHO/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The ECHO widows support group has set the Camp ECHO 2016 event for April 15-16 at The Rowe Family Center, 8th and Seminole in Okmulgee across from the jail.

The event will feature four workshops for: basket making, jewelry, quilting and a one-on-one session on widowhood.

All Native widows are invited for free and non-Widows are as well and will be charged $25 for admission a T-shirt and lunch.

To register, call Nancy Deere at: 918-756-4272.

Revival set for April 1-3

OKEMAH, Okla. — A revival led by evangelist Edward Bear is set April 1-3 at Montesoma Baptist Church, 96119 N. 3790 Rd., Okemah, OK 74859.

Services start at: 7 p.m., April 1-2 and 11 a.m., April 3.

For more information call: 918-623-9126.

UPDATE

Mvskoke language camp set June 13-17

MCN MLPP/*Media Release*

HULBERT, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 13-17 at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert. Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) and entering the seventh-12th grades. For applications, which are due March 31, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.

TCIC Spring Fling set April 2

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community, 8611 S. Union Ave, Tulsa, OK 74132, has set a Spring Fling event April 2 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.



Powwow set for April 2

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The 11th annual Azalea Powwow is set April 2 and will be hosted by Fife Indian United Methodist Church at the Civic Center Arena in Muskogee.

The event will begin with a gourd dance at 2 p.m., dinner is at 5 p.m. and grand entry is at 7 p.m.

Admission is $3 and free for children six and under.

For information including more events and vendor details call: 918-816-1498.

Day of Prayer event set April 2

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A National Day of Prayer event is set April 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All Muscogee (Creek) citizens are invited.

For more information call: 918-282-9381.

Wild onion dinner set April 9

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church has set an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner for April 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinners are $10 for adults and carry out and $5 for children 12 and under.

For more information call Karen King at: 918-652-5356.

Elders' reunion dinner set April 16

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Thlopthlocco Creek Tribal Town elder's reunion dinner is set 4:30 p.m., April 16 at the AQ community building, Hwy 27 northwest of Wetumka.

For more information call: 405-220-5887.

Gospel singing set May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A gospel singing has been set 7 p.m., May 6 for Rufus Gould's birthday at Crosstown Pentencostal Church. 1206 W. 5th street in Okmulgee.

All are welcome to the event, which will also feature cake and coffee as well as concessions, the funds from which will go towards sending the youth to camp.

Spring Market set for May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Loan Fund has set a Spring Market for May 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Claude Cox Omniplex outdoor pavilion in Okmulgee.

It will include Native American vendors, the Okmulgee County Farmer's Market and Jo Jo's BBQ.

To request transit offered for employees and Okmulgee elderly housing call Kogee Spanaird at: 918-732-7908.

Chilocco reunion set May 26-29

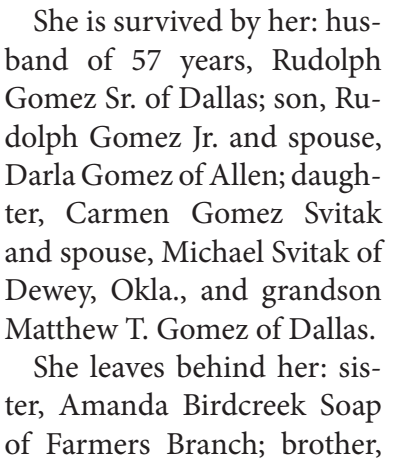
NEWKIRK, Okla. — A reunion for the Chilocco class of 1966 is set May 26-29 at the First Council Casino in Newkirk and the Chilocco campus.

To register call Emma Jean Falling at: 918-266-1626. For more information call Clarence Johnson at: 918-752-9512.

Former MCN royalty sought

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant Committee is seeking former MCN royalty to take part in this year's Honoring Past Princesses event. Those interested may contact Terrie Anderson at: 918-732-7699, tanderson@mcn-nsn.gov or Terra Beaver at: 918-758-9769, tbeaver@mcn-nsn.gov.

JOSEPHINE GOMEZ



DALLAS — Josephine Birdcreek Gomez was born April 20, 1937 in Weleetka, Okla., and passed away Dec. 10, 2015 in Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, Roman and Susie West Birdcreek; sister, Marie Birdcreek Thompson and her extended family and grandson, John Michael Svitak.

She is survived by her: husband of 57 years, Rudolph Gomez Sr. of Dallas; son, Rudolph Gomez Jr. and spouse, Darla Gomez of Allen; daughter, Carmen Gomez Svitak and spouse, Michael Svitak of Dewey, Okla., and grandson Matthew T. Gomez of Dallas.

She leaves behind her: sister, Amanda Birdcreek Soap of Farmers Branch; brother, Carven Birdcreek of Whiteriver, Ariz.; grandchildren, Audrey Svitak Royal and husband, Russell, Jessie A. Svitak and wife, Ofelia; great-grandchildren Liberty Svitak, Iceo Svitak, Jurnie Svitak, Hazel Svitak, Kaira Coleman, Kaylen Coleman, Kaden Coleman and Kamden Svitak a number of cousins, nieces and nephews as well as many family, extended family and friends.

Family received friends Dec. 14, 2015 at Dallas Indian United Methodist Church.

Service was held Dec. 15, 2015 at Restland Funeral Home.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Memorial Park, 13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75243.

MNN Deadlines

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 22

May 15 —May 6

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

EM MONKV — Nature

KVNHVLWE - Hill
ETO - Tree
HVSE - Sun
ETO OFV - Forest
AKHVSSE RAKKO - Lake
CVTO - Rock
PVHE - Grass
TOTKV - Fire
KOLASWV - Star
OKTAHV - Sand
PVKPVKUCE - Flower
HVRESSE - Moon
KVNHVLWE RVKKO - Mountain
OWV - Water

K E O A K H V S S E R V K K O K O O
V K E O E A T O T K V E O W V V K L
K A S T V E T O P E T O O F C V E E
R V K R O K O P P V V V E H K L V E
K V N H A O V V K V K A T T V H K E
H V V H V A F T T O K P C V T O V L
E T O K V S L V H K V P V L O C N O
K O E E V L S O O T H N V K L T H V
E K V K V N W E V A V R S K K V V S
O K T A H A H E R H S V S C K U L O
L P V T V V K V R V E V V H V U C O
P T V P R K O O L V K K T R K L C E
V S E N E U L E T W K O L A S W V K
H E O O S K A K E T E K O L A S W K
E R K K E H F L R V H V O V F K V O

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
N.A., DOB: 12-24-2014) Case No. JV-2016-01
)
Alleged Deprived Child.)

JUVENILE SUMMONS

THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Robert Atkins, Natural Father to N.A.
Unknown
Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition.

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 3rd day of June, 2016 at the hour of 9 : 00 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this 17 day of March 2016.

[Seal]

Deputy Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKMULGEE COUNTY
The undersigned hereby certifies this instrument to be a full, true and correct copy of the original, as the same appears on the record in the District Court's Records
Witness this 17 day of March 2016
Court Clerk



April and spring brings election things

Highland Park
Non-citizen submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is a fact that older citizens are the most likely to consistently cast their votes, which lends them some political clout.

"Seniors have a vested interest in protecting valuable benefits received from the government. The age based Social Security and Medicare programs create somewhat of an identity to seniors and a basis for mobilization." — Andrea Louise Campbell, MIT.

"The voter registration process may be another reason that seniors vote in greater numbers. Seniors tend to be more stable in where they live, younger voters are more mobile." —Leonard Steinhorn, American University

Younger adults have more things to accomplish and may overlook registering.

Retirees have more time to participate in politics whereas, working age voters have time and job constraints when getting to the polls.

Retirees may also have more disposable income for campaign contributions. Years of experience to develop communication skills allow them more confidence in contacting politicians.

The Silent Generation seniors were socialized in an era when voting was viewed as a privilege. They have also experienced or served in several wars that impressed upon them the importance of foreign relations and military strength. Anyone remember the bomb drills at school under the desks?

Older Americans are more traditional and identify strongly with a political party, often upon familial lines. They tend to be more conservative, especially on social issues.

In the 2014 elections, Republicans faired best among older voters. Men seemed to vote Republican more than women. Women were more equally divided between parties. Republicans gained among white evangelical Christians. The number of independents is growing in this group (PEW Research).

Regardless of how you vote, who you vote for, or your age demographic, let us consider what a privilege this is and how many have fought to gain us this right. A personal note, even if some candidates appear to have forgotten what the word integrity means, let us proceed with our civic duty.



Picking Wild Onions

by: Jamie Rolland
Spread and photos by: Chelsie Rich

It all started when I was a little girl. The best memory I have was when I was about five-years-old. I remember my mom, brother Bubba, aunt Margaret, my two cousins Juanita and Stephanie and my dad. We would load up, go to Mohawk Park and spend the day picking onions.

After we found enough, we went to my aunt's to clean the onions, cut them up and have dinner that evening. That's when it all started for me. Picking onions. I never picked them when I was younger, due the fact that I didn't want to get dirty.

One afternoon when I was about eight, maybe nine-years-old, I remember sitting around the house with my mom. We weren't doing anything, just sitting around.

She asked if I wanted to go pick onions. I asked her, “where?” I remember her going into the kitchen and grabbing two knives. We got into the car and drove out to Heyburn Lake right outside my hometown, Kellyville. We didn't say much going out there, just rode with the windows rolled down and the smell of fresh air and the bacon sandwiches she had prepared for us to snack on.

We spent that whole afternoon picking onions and talking. It was at that moment, I realized how relaxing and nice it was just to sit and talk to my mom. To hear her stories of when she grew up, how she picked and cleaned onions with her family. I never liked cleaning onions but I sure loved picking them.

That was always the easy part to me. Cutting into the grass and going through the dirt to get to that fresh onion. When I first started picking, I used to get the garlic and onions mixed up. My mom had to tell me how to get the right kind.

She always told me that if an onion has a big head, it is going to be tough and takes a little longer to cook. When we finished picking onions, she always soaked them for a few hours so they would be a little easier to clean.

Picking onions to me is just a relaxing thing to do. Thinking about life, older ones that have gone on, it really gives you time to be alone with your thoughts. Although I like my alone time, I miss picking onions with my momma and just listening to her talk and tell me her stories.



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

April 15, 2016 "Tasahce Rakko" Big Spring

Vol. 46, Issue 8

Muscogee (Creek) citizen turns passion into unique job— Page 4

Citizen participates in St. Baldrick's cancer awareness event — Page 6



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

Floyd issues FY 2017 budget call

Entities asked to submit at 90 percent of FY 2016

MNN brief

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd issued an executive order April 4 calling for MCN entities under the executive branch to submit fiscal year 2017 budgets by April 22.

The order states that budgets financed with tribal funds are to be submitted at 90 percent of what was approved for FY 2016, with the exception of tribal funds needed to match any grant requirements.

The order stated that the call is based on current revenue and what is projected for FY 2017.

Floyd issued a statement to Mvskoke Media April 5 regarding the order.

'The Budget Call letter (Executive Order 16-01) consists of two budget instructions for 2017. First, all programs and grants funded by federal funds will budget according to Congressional appropriation law and guidelines.

'Generally, we would expect some increase on an annual basis, or a Continuing Resolution at the current FY16 level. For programs funded from Tribal funds I have asked departments to prepare their budgets at 90% of the approved FY16 level.

'Tribal funds are dollars generated from Gaming, enterprises, or interest from invested Tribal funds. Currently, we are projecting a smaller distribution of available funds in 2017, thus the request for budgeting at a lower level.

'The National Council is the final approval of allocations in the Comprehensive Budget. Again, federal funded programs and grants do not follow these rules,' it stated.

LTPD officer arrested for shoplifting

Bartlett apprehended on duty, in uniform

MNN brief

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Citing the McIntosh County Sheriff's Office, 'Fox 23' reported April 7 that Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department Officer Margaret Bartlett was arrested for shoplifting over $90 worth of makeup from Wal-Mart in Checotah.

Coverage cited a law enforcement report indicating that Bartlett was on duty and in uniform.

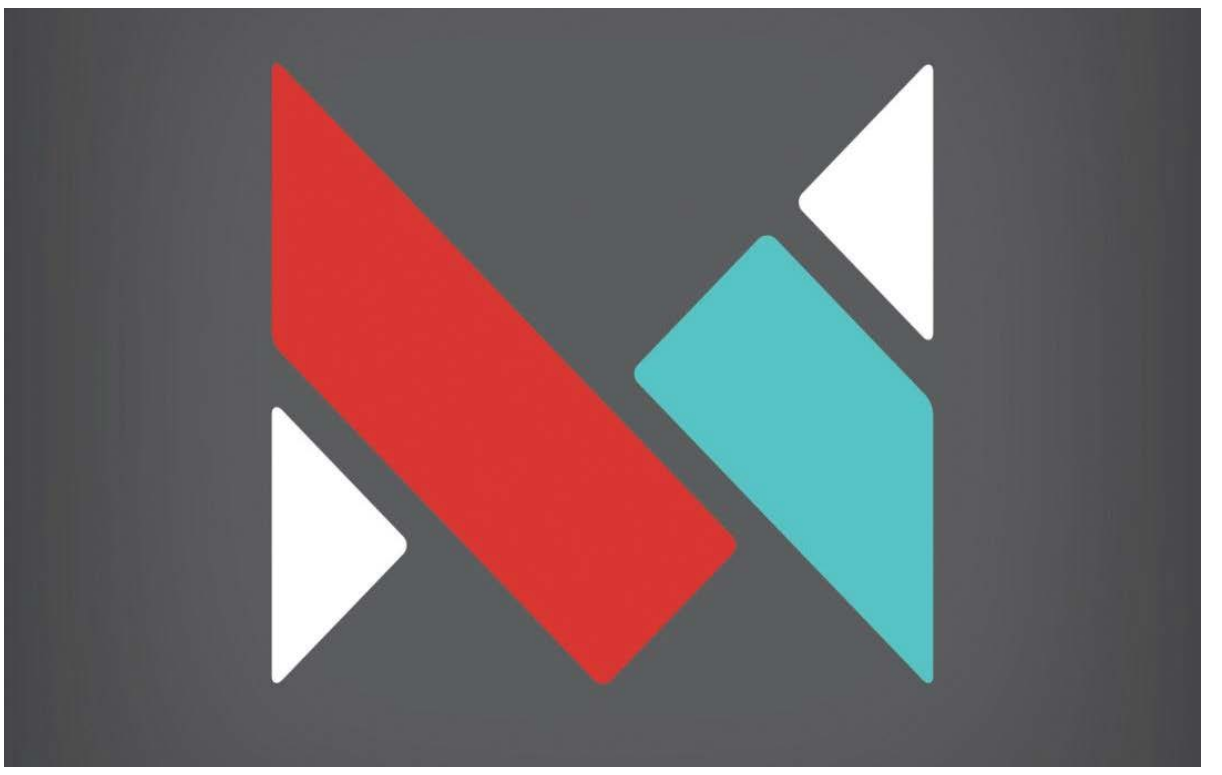
According to the report, Wal-Mart loss prevention called the sheriff's office while they watched her and a deputy was there to arrest her as she exited the store.

The report stated that Bartlett told the deputy she was testing the store's security system.

According to www.ocdr.com, Bartlett was arraigned in McIntosh County Court where she pleaded not guilty and was released on $250 bond, all on the same day of the arrest.

MCN spokesperson Geebon Gouge issued the following statement.

'This has been an unfortunate situation with one of our officers. Our Lighthorse Police administration has taken the proper actions per Lighthorse Policy and Procedures for this incident and the officer is no longer employed with our office.'



Mark Hill/Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Media launched their new website and logo April 1, to reinvent and move forward with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Independent Press Act.

Mvskoke Media announces transformation

New website launched

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Media launched their new website and logo April 1, to reinvent and move forward with the Independent Press Act.

In September 2015, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council introduced NCA 15-218, creating a new Title 49, titled 'Mvskoke Media,' a new law to establish an independent media and to provide protections for the independent media and editorial board.

"Our free press act is what legally separates us from the tribal administration and any part of the tribal government," 'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper said. "It's pretty much the foundation of what we're doing in this transition is getting answers for the citizens, unfiltered answers."

On Sept. 26, 2015, the National Council passed the law with 14 in favor and 0 against. Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed the law Oct. 8, 2015 making it effective.

"Whether or not there's been any overt censorship on behalf of the government in the past, it's kind of important through that bill that we have it in writing, signed and sealed," Cosper said. "Everyone's on the same page and knows where their information is coming from in the fact that it has not been influenced by any official."

With passing of the Independent Press Act, Mvskoke Media found it necessary to re-establish the department and implement new ideas and concepts.

"Along with the new status just comes change and you can change how you want to look, change how you want to be perceived and the way your operation is run, the way you disseminate information," Mvskoke Media Interim Manager Jason Salsman said.

What is the purpose of rebranding you may ask?

"The purpose of our rebrand is to provide a new and fresh look to better represent the type of work and creativity of which we provide as a new independent agency. Out with the old, in with the new, basically," Mvskoke Media Graphic Designer Mark Hill said.

The decision to rebrand comes with hours of logical thinking, reasoning and determination.

"We wanted a brand identity that would stand out among competitors and attract more interest. We wanted a brand identity that would leave an impression. We wanted a brand identity to be proud of," Hill said. "Our brand's logo symbol, the 'M,' is made up of four essential parts that each represent a division within Mvskoke Media."

Mvskoke Media consists of

Transformation ~ 2



Internet image

Missing child reunited with family

Community comes together to help find boy

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

The author is an MCN Emergency Management member and was involved in the effort.

MORRIS, Okla. — A three-year-old Muscogee (Creek) boy was happy to be reunited with his family in the early afternoon of March 26 after being found on Highway Alternate 62 or 'Old Morris Highway' in Morris.

The child was playing with his dog and went missing at approximately 11 a.m.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team Supervisor James Nichols spoke about the events.

"The call came from Okmulgee Emergency Management and they called Morris Fire Department," Nichols

Missing ~ 2

Presidential candidates discuss their impact to Indian Country

Sanders, Cruz win Oklahoma primary

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — During the Oklahoma state primary March 1, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders received the majority of votes as the Democratic Party nominee and Sen. Ted Cruz received the majority of votes as the Republican Party nominee.

State contests are still being held across the nation.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' reached out to Democratic Party candidates Sanders and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, as well as Republican Party candidates Cruz, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and businessman Donald Trump for interviews on how each candidate's platform would help Indian Country.

Clinton

Candidates ~ 7

Missing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. "He had been missing approximately 45 minutes before we got the call."

Several agencies throughout Okmulgee County along with numerous volunteers searched the area looking for the child.

Nichols said organization is key when there are numerous people helping with such an effort.

"We have a central area or incident command post that everyone comes to," Nichols said. "We gather as much information as we can before we send everyone out."

There were areas near where the boy was reported missing that had a numerous bodies of water so the team was prepared for the worst. A few years ago, a missing child was found in a pond and did not survive.

"That did remind me of that time we had to search for a boy a while back," a volunteer who wished to remain anonymous said. "Plus, I have a little boy near that age and I can't even fathom him being lost."

In this latest instance, the boy was found uninjured about one mile south of his home. Reportedly, he was scared and asked for his mother. The person who found the boy asked to remain anonymous. The individual said they were just doing their job and that it was a team effort.

"At first I didn't really think it was him," they said. "I could see him from a 100 to 200 yards away."

The person said they found the child among some cattle that were staring at him and that they could tell the boy had been crying. When the volunteer approached the child, they asked his name and told him that they would go to his mother.

"I opened my arms he basically latched on to me and would not let me go until he saw his mother," they said.

The volunteer said it was a good feeling knowing the child was OK and the experience was emotional for them.

"I was very relieved that we could reunite him with his family," they said.

Nichols checked the boy for injuries and then returned him to his mother.

The volunteer said these situations demonstrate how the community comes together to look after their own.

"This shows you how much we care about each other," they said. "We do not have to know you at all but if something were to happen, we are going to be there to do everything that we can to help you."

Transformation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TV show 'Native News Today,' newspaper, the 'Muscogee Nation News,' Mvskoke Radio and Graphic Design and Printing.

Along with the logo change, Mvskoke Media will bring back a few services, and create new services for the citizens and community.

"We're excited about having a new logo. We're excited about having a new website. We're excited about having new services and really just having a new marketing strategy as we move forward," Salsman said.

Visit the website at: www.mvskokemedia.com to view updated stories, news and the services offered. Also, follow the department on Instagram: @MvskokeMedia for a chance to win giveaways and go behind the scenes of what goes into making 'The Muscogee Nation News,' 'Native News Today,' 'Mvskoke Radio' and Graphic Design and Printing.



Jessica McBride/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services installed medicinal lock boxes March 10 at the MCN Elderly Housing Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

BHS installs medicinal lock boxes at MCN housing

Prescription take-back day scheduled

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I love you and I would miss you very much."

This was the recommended statement given by a Muscogee (Creek) elder during a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services in-service on advice from seniors to future generations about suicide.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2014, suicide was the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10-34.

BHS Project Coordinator Miranda Carmen said that Oklahoma is 11th in the nation for suicide completion.

According to a 2006 report by the Oklahoma Health Department, 532 deaths were the result of suicide completion.

From 2002-2006, 2,510 suicide completions were reported in Oklahoma. Those reported as Native American accounted for 189.

During the same time period, 763 suicide completions were reported in counties included in the MCN jurisdiction.

Carmen has recommendations for reducing the number of suicide completions.

"As you would child-proof your home, we are asking that families suicide-proof their home," she said.

> **"As you would child-proof your home, we are asking that families suicide-proof their home."**
>
> **— BHS Project Coordinator Miranda Carmen**

Carmen said research has shown that means restriction can reduce the risk of suicide completion of a person battling suicidal ideation by 50 percent.

BHS has means restriction options available including medicinal lock boxes as well as trigger and gun locks. They also offer disposal bags so medication can be safely disposed of without flushing it in the toilet and potentially contaminating water sources.

The funding is provided through the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant.

BHS installed medicinal lock boxes into MCN Elderly Housing units March 10 for residents.

The boxes are secured into a drawer and require an electronic passcode for access.

Carmen also said parents should keep track of medication prescribed and given to youth.

"We ask that parents are heavily involved in that administration so that youth don't have access to meds and could be passing them out and things like that," she said.

BHS Program Coordinator Leslie Crow and Carmen relayed that medicinal disposal and control can also help manage substance abuse.

"I think there's not a lot of awareness about the seriousness of the problem and we just want to communicate that to everyone and get people talking about it," Crow said.

Crow said many times, patients do not understand the importance of disposing unused prescription drugs because they want to keep them instead of returning to the doctor.

She said sometimes this can cause drug abuse.

"It's very much illegal to use someone else's prescription or to transport prescriptions not in the proper container," Crow said. "People don't understand the harm that can come from sharing medications with others and there's just been a huge increase of medications being stolen and sometimes people are using them to sell illegally but also to get high."

BHS has set a prescription drug take-back day April 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department offices in Okmulgee.

"We'll also have a mobile team that will be responding to residents in Okmulgee County," Carmen said.

A medicinal disposal unit is located at LTPD offices for medicinal disposal at any day and time. To contact MCN BHS or to schedule a prescription drug pick-up on April 29, call: 918-758-1930.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-8255. You can also text 'CREEK' to 741-741 to access a live counselor.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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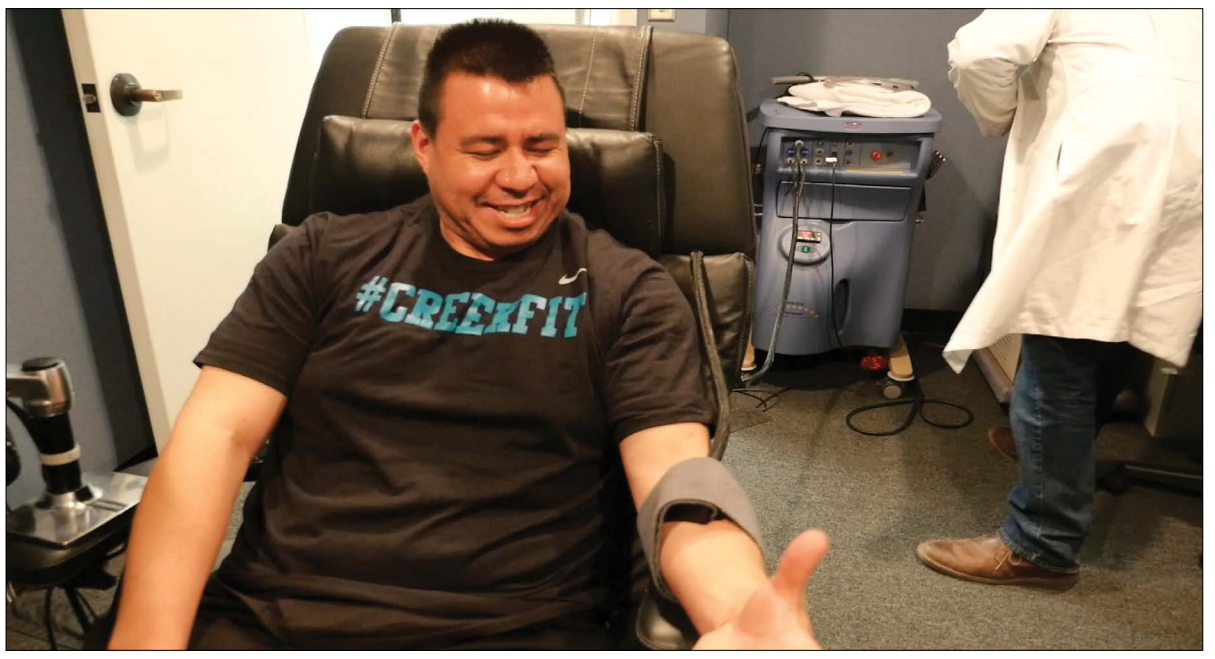
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NAJA
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TU researching chronic pain in Native Americans



Native News Today

'Muscogee Nation News' Reporter Darren DeLaune participates in the Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk research study March 21 conducted by the University of Tulsa Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience at the TU campus in Tulsa, Okla.

Rhudy, Shadlow search for answers

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The University of Tulsa Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience are searching for healthy participants to take part in the Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk research study.

TU professors, Dr. Jamie Rhudy and Dr. Joanna Shadlow are the lead investigators on the study.

"We became interested in the high prevalence of chronic pain in Native Americans I think in 2011," Rhudy said. "We started looking at some of the epidemiological evidence and found that prevalence rates for chronic pain were higher than any other minority group in the U.S."

The research study is a TU and Cherokee Nation Institutional Review Board approved study that assesses pain processing in Native Americans.

"We know that culture is very influential in all areas of our life, including possibly pain," Shadlow said.

According to the National Library of Medicine website, 'chronic pain is often defined as any pain lasting more than 12 weeks or may arise from an initial injury, such as a back sprain, or there may be an ongoing cause, such as illness.'

The TU team said they discovered that no studies had previously been conducted to understand the high rates of chronic pain among Native Americans.

"What we do in the laboratory is we actually study reactions to pain by delivering pain in a very controlled way so that we can understand that way the body responds to it."

— TU professor Dr. Jamie Rhudy

"We developed a small pilot study to do some very basic work," Rhudy said. "What we do in the laboratory is we actually study reactions to pain by delivering pain in a very controlled way so that we can understand the way the body responds to it."

After the initial findings, a proposal was presented to the National Institutes of Health and TU was granted funding to perform a larger study on the subject.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy Native American individuals.

"One of the things that we're doing on day one is going through a pretty intensive pain interview," Shadlow said. "Trying to tap into some of those cultural experiences that may influence the way you think about pain, influence the way your parents responded to pain and influence the way you respond as a parent to a child in pain. Trying to tap into potential cultural differences."

The research looks into three areas of study for pain processing which are pain perception, markers of central sensitization and ways to regulate pain.

It also takes into consideration factors such as a personal background, other demographic variables, the way individuals cope with pain, physical symptoms like blood pressure, body mass index, sleep variables and anything that may contribute to chronic pain.

"We have a bunch of other domains we're interested in." Rhudy said. "We have no idea because there has been really nothing done at this point to understand what the mechanisms are within Native Americans."

According to the participant call, the study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend two testing sessions that are approximately four to five and one-half hours per session.

Participants must not currently: have chronic pain or take pain medications, have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications as well as take antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications.

Participants will receive up to $200 in compensation based on $100 a day for their cooperation.

"Give us a call and our graduate students will call them back and do a brief 10 minute screener because all of the people that are going through this are healthy," Shadlow said. "There also has to be other criteria that they have to meet to be included in this study."

For more information call: 918-631-2175, or 918-631-3565. To view their website visit: orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys.

Visit their Facebook page at: http://tinyurl.com/jhlfw4y.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). $200 compensation ($100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our website at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916



Native News Today

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge warms up March 1 before the 18th annual Black Gold Billiard Congress of America Tournament at Grand Casino in Shawnee, Okla.

MCN manager makes 'bank' shooting pool on downtime

LaSarge prepares for successful season at Shawnee tournament

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Charley LaSarge warmed up for the 18th annual Black Gold Billiard Congress of America Tournament at Grand Casino in Shawnee March 1 by playing Mvskoke Media staff and shared his background in the sport.

"I got started when I was 12," he said. "My mom used to work at the cleaner's so she didn't make much money and there was five of us."

LaSarge began by working to play.

"So I'd go sweep driveways and things and make two or three dollars sweeping driveways and I would go down to the Golden Cue, which was a family recreation center and I started practicing playing pool and I seemed to like it."

This hobby quickly turned into a breadwinner itself.

"I got to playing it and I just kept making money," LaSarge said. "I got to the point where I was winning three, four, five dollars a day and that was a lot of money back in the middle '60s."

He continued practicing through high school, which set him up for more success as a young adult when he began playing oil field workers.

"I would go to where a lot of roughnecks hung out at bars and after they got a little beer down them, they were all pool players so it wasn't nothing for me to make $100-$200 a night just going out," LaSarge said.

After finishing school, LaSarge ran a framing crew that built homes in Tulsa and the consistency of his work was affected by the length of Oklahoma winters back then.

"They began the first of October and lasted through March. So six months out of the year, it was hard for me to support my family," he said. "So I had the ability to play pool so on the days that it would snow or sleet, I'd go to the bars and make $100-$200 a day."

After a while, LaSarge stopped playing. He quit drinking and had made such a name for himself that it was hard to continue making money because anyone below his skill level refused to play him.

"I went to Tulsa and made a mistake because I didn't know any of the players and I went up there and played one of the top players in Tulsa back then, a person called Bugs and beat him out of about $400 and I was known after that," he said.

LaSarge was out for about 15 years until his brother convinced him to compete in an Okmulgee area tournament by saying, 'you need to see what kind of money is in them tournaments these days.'

The game had become more popular, which was evident by the amount of tournaments but it had also changed as players began winning through defense.

"So I strictly practiced defense so I could use that knowledge and try to keep people out of positions where they could really snooker me," LaSarge said.

It did not take long for LaSarge to regain his notoriety and he won a Native American tournament sponsored by the Florida Seminoles at Magoos in Tulsa.

LaSarge took this success to the BCA Pool League finals in Las Vegas where he placed 33rd out of 319 players.

He lost by getting in an awkward position in two different matches after a run to the eight ball.

"The players are so good out there, open tables and they're gone," LaSarge said.

LaSarge is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program manager and told a funny story about having to show up to a tournament in his work clothes.

LaSarge is friends with the person who coordinated the tournament but they did not recognize him when he walked in, which continued to happen with his friends who were competing.

They all decided to play a joke on one of their wives.

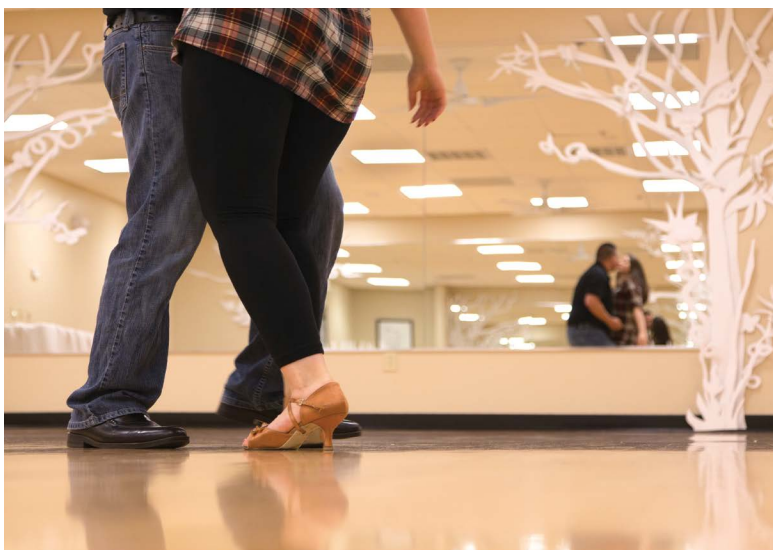
"She gives me these looks again and she goes over to Warren and says, 'I don't know what that Indian is doing over there but he won't stay away from me and he keeps bumping into me and everything.'

"And he says, 'That's Charley' and she came over and started hugging me and saying, 'We never knew that was you,' " LaSarge said.

LaSarge is a successful player but also enjoys pool by keeping his attitude light.

"It's fun you know," he said. "It's not something you get in arguments with or fights over, like you would in the bar when you're gambling. It's competitive. I love the game."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen turns passion into unique job



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Dance Makers, has been helping people explore dance and try something new since it opened its doors in 1988.

Business offers all types of social dancing lessons

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

EDMOND, Okla. — When your significant other tells you to do something, many people will agree and then push the thought aside.

In this case, being told to do something has paid off for Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gary Bramlett. He is vice-president of Dance Makers out of Edmond.

Bramlett opened Dance Makers in 1988 with his wife Gina and business partner Michael Pone.

Dance Makers teaches all sorts of dancing that you can do with a partner for social gatherings.

They teach all styles of ballroom dancing as well as swing and country line.

"Just about anything with that people ask," Gary said. "If it's a social dance, we usually know it."

Gary spoke about what made him want to dance and eventually, teach dancing.

"My now wife," Gary said. "I was working at TGNY Department Stores and they basically went bankrupt. I was looking for a job my wife started training me to dance and eventually talked me into doing this."

Gary said that it is a unique job.

"It's a skill that not very many people have," Gary said. "So I thought it might come in useful."

Gary said his overall favorite to teach is ballroom dances, preferably the foxtrot.

He loves the music that goes with the style and also said it is like a 'stroll in the park'.

"You get into that character when you are dancing, especially professionally," Gary said. "It is very smooth and very elegant. It ends being the hardest dance that you will learn, technique wise."

Gary spoke about dance competitions that he use to participate in.

He said he does not participate in competitions as much anymore but still dances pro-am.

Pro-Am is where they will not judge him but rather his dance partner.

"She will be the one that competes," Gary said.

Gary said that they put on a competition called the Oklahoma Challenge.

He said that they are in their 14th year.

"It has become one of the largest dance competitions in the region," Gary said. "We have people from all over the United States and even one company from Canada came this year."

Instructors at Dance Makers Sarah Pippenger and Elizabeth Schaerer, who is also Muscogee (Creek), have been dancing and instructors for a number of years.

Both shared why they love to teach dance.

"I didn't know that I wanted to teach dance," Pippenger said. "Once I started, I knew that I was good at something and wanted to help others. We all have our clients but all the instructors know every client by name. It is a family atmosphere."

Schaerer said she wanted to dance for health reasons.

"I loved to do it when I was a kid," Schaerer said. "When I started, I realized I was good at it too."

Gary knows that everyone comes into the studio for different reasons and typically have no idea what they are getting into.

"They are just coming in to take a few lessons," Gary said. "We have a whole social atmosphere here. When they come in, not only do they learn to dance, but they also make friends."

They have weekly parties, which he said are classes in disguise.

"It is class we are teaching them to dance," Gary said. "We disguise it and simulate a nightclub."

Schaerer said she understands those who have initial apprehension about dancing.

"I get where they're coming from," Schaerer said. "At the same time, we are all friends here. We are a big family here and we take care of everybody. We will answer questions and do everything we can to take the pressure away from them to enjoy dancing."

Gary is pleased to have people frequent his business.

He said they still have customers who have been coming in since 1988.

"We are very proud of that," Gary said.

Pippenger had a last remark about Dance Makers.

"This place is a very fun atmosphere to work at," Pippenger said. "I'm 24-years-old and I can say I am really happy to go to work everyday."

Dance Makers is located at: 610 S. Kelly Ave., Edmond, OK 73003. Their phone number is: 405-285-0095 and website is: http://www.dancemakers.net.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen works for success in MMA



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaila Thompson works with trainer and fellow citizen Dana Doonkeen in preparation for her mix martial arts bout, which was held March 26 at Sugar Creek Casino in Hinton, Okla.

Thompson hopes to make her tribe proud

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

MOORE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaila Thompson has always had a competitive sprit in whatever she has done. She has wrestled from a young age and this has evolved into an interest in mixed martial arts.

She started training in Tulsa before she relocated to El Reno. That is where she met her trainer, sensei Dana Doonkeen who is also Muscogee (Creek).

He has been her trainer since February 2015.

"At first, he did not want to take me on as a fighter," Thompson said. "I kept being persistent."

Thompson said she kept calling.

"I was so persistent and determined to capture him as my coach," she said. "That is how we met."

Thompson said his experience in the arts of judo and juijitsu was what she wanted in a trainer and since he agreed to take her as a student, they have meshed well.

"Me and him are just a good team together," Thompson said.

Thompson knew from back when she trained in Tulsa that she could become an MMA fighter.

Thompson said she saw it as a big possibility when Doonkeen started to train her.

"I have always been a conflict, one-on-one type of person," Thompson said. "I wanted more than grappling. I wanted to hit."

Thompson understands that MMA fighters have to be taught all different types of styles. She said her preference however, is judo.

"I just think it is good for the fight game," she said. "I just really got in tune to it and I love it."

Thompson now has two wins as an amateur fighter. Her most recent win was on March 26, at Sugar Creek Casino in Hinton.

Thompson felt very confident in the days leading up to the fight.

"This fight I feel really prepared," Thompson said. "I am going to bring home the win for sure."

Thompson said Doonkeen inspires her to keep competing and pushing herself.

"He gives me words of wisdom that I have never heard before," Thompson said. "It makes me just want to keep going. I am blessed to have him."

> **"I just think it is good for the fight game. I just really got in tune to it and I love it."**
>
> **— Muscogee (Creek) MMA fighter Kaila Thompson**

Thompson said it feels good being a Native American fighter.

Thompson said she wants everybody to know that she is a part of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"I am going to make them proud," she said.



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tristan Smith won the eight and 11-man powerlifting state competitions in Oklahoma.

Citizen wins two state powerlifting championships

Junior year injury inspires career choice

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — What would make a person happier after winning one of the top contests in Oklahoma? How about winning two?

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tristan Smith did just that when he placed first in both the eight-man and 11-man powerlifting state championships in March.

Smith started working out to get in better shape and it ended up being one of his biggest hobbies.

"I have been working out since my freshman year," he said. "When I started, I only weighed around 140 pounds. I was real scrawny."

Smith said he now weighs 185 pounds.

He has to be in a certain weight class in order to compete, which currently is the 181-weight class.

"You have to be 181 pounds or lower in order to compete in that class," he said. "I have to drop a little bit of weight but it is not too bad."

The Oklahoma Football Coaches Association puts on the powerlifting meets throughout the state. There are three lifts in a powerlifting meet: squat, bench press and deadlift.

Each participant gets three attempts in each category and the judges count the strongest from each.

"Then they total your score and whoever has the best score wins," Smith said.

Smith feels that his hobby is a personal challenge and not about who is better.

"You have your own limits working out," he said. "You have to challenge yourself to push past those limits."

Smith started noticing that he was getting stronger by his sophomore year and he wanted to give this competition a try.

"I did real good my sophomore year but I injured myself junior year and I could not lift any weights," he said. "I had to take off for a while but I still did good my junior year even with an injury."

Smith said he did everything possible to return to his form for his senior year. He spoke about the state competition.

"My mind was focused on winning," he said.

Smith said there were some in his weight class that dropped one so they did not have to compete against him.

Smith's future plans are to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He plans to be an orthopedic surgeon.

"It was because of my injury," Smith said. "After I broke my thumb and they had to do the surgery is what made me look into being a surgeon."

Would Smith like to pursue powerlifting on the collegiate level?

"It just depends on what my schedule looks like in college," Smith said. "OSU has their own powerlifting team and they go to meets and I don't think you can get scholarships from that."

Smith's parents are Bill and Sandra. He is of the Peach Ceremonial Ground and Eco (Deer) Clan.

> **"You have your own limits working out. You have to challenge yourself to push past those limits."**
>
> **— Muscogee (Creek) weightlifter Tristan Smith**



Muscogee (Creek) citizen sees success in underground drilling

Perkins starts career to be a stay at home mom

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sondra 'Dee' Perkins took an idea from when she worked in the cable company industry and used it to be able to work from home.

Perkins is the owner of Sooner Technical Services, which is a directional drilling company.

She also owns an aerial construction division to go along with what she does.

Perkins' partner Chris Cowart defined some of this terminology.

Directional drilling is a method of installing pipe underground along a path by using a surface-launched drilling rig, with minimal impact on the surrounding area.

It can also install cable or conduit to homes or businesses.

A conduit is a type of pipe that is used for protecting electrical wiring that needs to be setup for Internet or cable connections.

Perkins said she originally obtained a degree in finance and shared what led her to pursue a career that allowed her to be a stay at home mother.

"My husband and I were wanting to start a family so I still wanted to work and be at home with my children," Perkins said. "That is what led me to start my own business."

Perkins said she also gets to be on location with her employees to look over areas where they will be working.

"I do get to go to locations a little bit more nowadays," she said. "It helps with the rapport I get with the people who work with us."

Cowart believes this is what sets their company apart from similar businesses.

"Both of us like to go out to locations and check on our workers and see how they are doing," Cowart said. "We know our guys are working hard and we check on them to see what they are needing and see how the project is moving along."

Perkins is pleased with how her company has grown in a short time.

"It amazes me to hear other companies that want to work with us and they ask about us by our name because of the great things they hear," Perkins said. "To me that is great and it shows what our company has done."

"My husband and I were wanting to start a family so I still wanted to work and be at home with my children. That is what led me to start my own business."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dee Perkins

Perkins said although her company is located in north Texas, they go all over the United States for projects.

She said they finished a project in South Dakota in late 2015.

"We do go all over," Perkins said. "We will be near the Muscogee (Creek) Nation this year. We have a project near Stillwater."

Perkins wants to work with her tribe and hopes to be able to do that soon.

"I have talked to several people but nothing has come to fruition yet," she said. "I am hopeful that someday that they will reach out to me. I would love to have a partnership with Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Perkins lives in Prosper, Texas with her husband and two children.

The Civil War ripped Creek Nation: part 3

Don Diehl/*Non-Citizen*

Opothleyahola then pushed further north during the night. The Confederates did not immediately give chase and declared they had won the battle. Cooper reported his troops killed more than a hundred Unionists and he lost, "a handful of men."

Subsequent skirmishes occurred on Monday, Dec. 9, 1861 at Chusto Talasah as Cooper again encountered the fleeing unionists and meted out more punishment during a standoff. Then, the day after Christmas, a Confederate force led by Col. James M. McIntosh attacked Opothleyahola at Chustenalah.

Stripped of their belongings and in dire straits because of winter snow storms, the remaining troops, women and children escaped toward Kansas. Some died then or later on because of the harsh conditions. That first battle took a lasting toll on local Creeks. It was just a prelude of what would follow as Native Americans became more involved in the hostilities.

Cherokee Chief John Ross also had signed an alliance with the Confederacy in 1861 in order to avoid disunity within his tribe and among the Indian Territory tribal members. Less than a year later, Ross and part of the National Council concluded that the agreement had proved disastrous and things would get worse.

To be continued...



Submissions/Chelsie Rich

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Keith and her mother Katherine Ryal shaved their heads at the 2016 Oklahoma City St. Baldrick's event April 3, to bring awareness and raise money for childhood cancer research in Oklahoma City.

Citizen participates in St. Baldrick's cancer awareness event

Mother, grandmother shave heads in memory of lost child relative

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Keith and her mother Katherine Ryal shaved their heads at the 2016 Oklahoma City St. Baldrick's event April 3, to bring awareness and raise money for childhood cancer research.

Patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment often lose their hair.

"I'm shaving my head to raise money for childhood cancer research," Keith said. "Charlie Keith, my son fought a long hard battle with Neuroblastoma for three-and-a-half years before the side effects from treatment killed him."

Charlie James Keith born June 20, 2008, passed away Sept. 7, 2015 at the age of seven.

At the event, 'shavees' show their support by voluntarily shaving their heads to inspire family and friends to donate money for childhood cancer treatment research.

This is the second time Keith participated in the event and she was also on the planning committee for this year.

Charlie's mother and his 'Posey' (grandmother) honored him by holding a photo in his memory as their hair hit the floor.

"Charlie benefited from three St. Baldrick's funded trials while in treatment and I have made it my mission to change the world and make childhood cancer and research a priority."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Keith

According to the website, 'the St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-powered charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancer and give survivors long, healthy lives.'

"Two years ago, Charlie was declared to have No Evidence of Disease. This is why I'm doing what I am. Our children are a low priority when it comes to treatment options funded by the government," Keith said. "St. Baldrick's single handily allowed me two extra years with my son because of the trials they fund."

According to the website, 'St. Baldrick's donors and volunteers have enabled the foundation to fund over $178 million in grants, allowing the foundation to fund more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government.'

Although Charlie may have passed, Keith still shows her support for families and friends that face the challenges she once endured and is still passionate about raising awareness regarding childhood cancer.

"Charlie benefited from three St. Baldrick's funded trials while in treatment and I have made it my mission to change the world and make childhood cancer and research a priority," Keith said.

For more information about the St. Baldrick's Foundation visit: www.stbaldricks.org.

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Assistant MCN AG seeks further education

Hotvedt takes advantage of employee benefits

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist



Amanda Rutland/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Assistant Attorney General Carly Hotvedt is utilizing MCN employee benefits to further her education.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Assistant Attorney General Carly Hotvedt is utilizing MCN employee benefits to further her legal education.

Hotvedt is originally from Adair and resides in Tulsa. She is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and has been employed with MCN for one year.

"I am in my favorite and best job that I've had… I'm doing exactly what I want to do right now," Hotvedt said. "It all kind of came together to get me to this point."

She said her job responsibilities consist of working with the MCN Health Department and the MCN Cultural Preservation Department.

Hotvedt said she also takes on other obligations that are assigned to her such as reviewing contracts, contract negotiations with vendors for the Nation and proposed polices for MCN departments and programs.

"Being able to do government work and kind of like the position I am now is what I really wanted to do," she said.

Hotvedt ensures revisions to policy are compliant with MCN law and advises on certain issues.

"I knew after my freshman year of college that I wanted to go to law school," Hotvedt said.

Hotvedt graduated from Oklahoma State University with and agribusiness degree in 2006 and a political science degree in 2011.

Hotvedt also graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2011.

She made the decision to return to school and is in the Masters of Public Administration Program at OU-Tulsa.

"It gives me a better perspective as far as the services the Nation is trying to provide and what my role as an attorney to help those services be provided," Hotvedt said.

In October 2015, Hotvedt was featured on the OU-Tulsa MPA Facebook page.

The feature highlighted the fact that Hotvedt is a full-time working adult who is working on a degree that is relevant to her current job position.

"One of the things that's good about where I'm at is I have a really good boss who sees the value in the additional coursework I'm taking because it's directly applicable to the work that I'm doing," Hotvedt said.

According to the Human Resources Management Policies and Procedures, MCN offers employees Career Development through four outlets: the College Program, Degree Program, Professional Development Program and Tribal College Program.

"I take classes on the weekends or evenings and I'm able to submit my course plan to Human Resources and I get reimbursed a certain percentage of my tuition," Hotvedt said.

These programs were established to increase and encourage quality productivity and intellectual awareness, improve the job skills of an employee and create an interest in higher education and seeking college degrees.

For more information about the MCN employee career development programs, call MCN Human Resources at: 918-732-7827.

Graduate profiles due May 13



MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will be featuring 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the 'MNN.'

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation. A recent digital photo should also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 13 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Clinton's campaign team referred to their website: http://tinyurl.com/zt5k9df.

The website discusses how Clinton will build on President Barack Obama's efforts with tribes, protect tribal resources, and improve education, health care and the justice system in Indian Country.

The website also states how Clinton has worked as an Indian Country advocate in her roles as first lady, New York senator and secretary of state.

Cruz

The Cruz campaign team did not respond to 'MNN' requests by the press deadline.

For more information on Cruz, visit: www.tedcruz.org.

Kasich

The Kasich campaign team did not respond to 'MNN' requests by the press deadline.

For more information on Kasich, visit: www.johnkasich.com.

Sanders

As Sanders was unavailable for interview, 'MNN' was referred to Sanders Campaign Tribal Outreach Strategist Nicole Willis for an interview.

Willis is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Willis said that Sanders supports tribal sovereignty and the need to seek economic development.

"We haven't talked expressly about gaming before, but he is pro-tribal sovereignty and he recognizes the need for economic development in Indian Country," she said. "He respects the right to gaming and I think also wants to help tribes find alternative forms of economic development."

She explained Sanders' views on treaty rights.

"He does pledge to uphold treaty rights," Willis said. "A couple of areas that he's really focusing on is when it comes to climate change and protecting tribal nations from adverse affects of climate change as tribal nations are often at the forefront, especially those tribes who rely heavily on hunting and fishing for subsistence."

Willis said Sanders is supportive of funding for the Indian Health Service.

"Bernie believes that we can fully fund IHS and that it's just a matter of whether or not the government is willing to make it a priority, which it has not in the past," she said.

She also discussed his thoughts on education.

"Part of his plan is to provide early childhood for all pre-k(indergarten) education for all Americans as well as fighting to fund the Bureau of Education and to strengthen the ability of schools to provide culturally appropriate learning unique to each tribal nation, and to help recruit and retain qualified teachers in rural areas," Willis said.

According to his education plan, his presidency would provide for refinancing of student loans and free college tuition at all public colleges and universities.

'MNN' asked about Sanders' views regarding sacred sites in reference to the issue the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has faced with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians building a casino on the Hickory Ceremonial Ground site located in Alabama.

"He's come out very strongly about protecting sacred places… he's been emphasizing in his meetings with tribal leaders that it's part of tribal sovereignty to be able to designate your sacred place and to protect that place from desecration," Willis said.

She explained his views on the relationship between the federal government and tribal governments.

"His view is very much that the federal government needs to know when to step back and when to step up," Willis said. "And when I say when to step back, I'm speaking specifically about, Bernie's very much in favor of restoring tribal jurisdiction and the ability of tribes to regulate their own lands and protect their own people or protect all people on their land."

She said Sanders wants to build on the relationship with tribal nations.

"Bernie wants to strengthen that executive order and make sure it's not just consultations and that it is collaboration," she said.

'MNN' also asked about Sanders' views regarding the Act of 1947, which affects the allotted lands of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma.

"He is aware that Oklahoma, Alaska and Hawaii are kind of facing very specific statewide situations when it comes to how we work with tribes and so I think that's definitely something that he would want to work with the Oklahoma tribal leadership on," Willis said.

For more information on Sanders, visit: www.berniesanders.com.

Trump

The Trump campaign team declined to provide a written statement or interview.

For more information on Trump, visit: www.donaldjtrump.com.

The general election will be Nov. 8.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 14. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Nov. 2. For more information or to register to vote, visit: www.ok.gov/elections/index.html, or call: 405-521-2391.

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'Dawes Commission' performances set April 16

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Performances of 'The Dawes Commission' play are set April 16 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. during the free Art Under the Oaks Festival and Market at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee.

Elders' reunion dinner set April 16

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Thlopthlocco Creek Tribal Town elder's reunion dinner is set 4:30 p.m., April 16 at the AQ community building, Hwy 27 northwest of Wetumka.

For more information call: 405-220-5887.

Gospel singing set May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A gospel singing has been set 7 p.m., May 6 for Rufus Gould's birthday at Crosstown Pentencostal Church. 1206 W. 5th street in Okmulgee.

All are welcome to the event, which will also feature cake and coffee as well as concessions, the funds from which will go towards sending the youth to camp.

Spring Market set for May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Loan Fund has set a Spring Market for May 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Claude Cox Omniplex outdoor pavilion in Okmulgee.

It will include Native American vendors, the Okmulgee County Farmer's Market and Jo Jo's BBQ.

To request transit offered for employees and Okmulgee elderly housing call Kogee Spanaird at: 918-732-7908.

Chilocco reunion set May 26-29

NEWKIRK, Okla. — A reunion for the Chilocco class of 1966 is set May 26-29 at the First Council Casino in Newkirk and the Chilocco campus.

To register call Emma Jean Falling at: 918-266-1626. For more information call Clarence Johnson at: 918-752-9512.

MCN Scholarship pageant set June 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant has been set for June 4 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Ominplex in Okmulgee.

The doors open at 2:30 p.m. and the event starts at 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited and it will conclude with a reception.

UPDATE

Mvskoke language camp set June 13-17

MCN MLPP*/Media Release*

HULBERT, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 13-17 at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert. Applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) and entering the seventh-12th grades. For applications, which are due March 31, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.

CORRECTION

In the April 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' the story titled 'Veteran affairs service director confirmed for third term' stated that Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veteran Affairs Service Office Secretary Ken Davis was reconfirmed for a third time when it was actually his fourth confirmation.

The 'MNN' regrets this error.

GOMER HAIKEY



TULSA, Okla. — Gomer L. Haikey went to be with our Lord March 4, 2016. Gomer was born Oct. 27, 1936 to Herbert and Hope Haikey of Tulsa. Gomer was a life long member of Haikey Chapel and the grandson of founding pastor C. Ben Haikey. Gomer started working for American Airlines prior to marrying his high school sweetheart Claudine March 25, 1955. Gomer obtained grant money from Muscogee (Creek) Nation to attend the University of Tulsa in 1964.

We often wondered how he found the time to study while providing for his family working the night shift and going to school during the day. After six long years, Gomer graduated from TU in 1972 with Bachelor of Science in business administration. Gomer climbed the corporate ladder to director with AA and retired after 43 years, 10 months.

Gomer was preceded in death by his: parents; brother, Kenneth Haikey and brothers-in-law, Bill Scantlin, Pat Ryan and Gerald Cass.

Gomer is survived by his: loving wife, Claudine Haikey; son, Bruce Haikey; grandsons, Colton Haikey and Shane Haikey; sisters, Barbara Scantlin, Wanona Cass, Judy Moore, Carol Ryan and brother-in-law Ron Moore, many nephews and nieces and two very close blood brothers, Terry and Larry Brown.

Gomer hunted, fished, golfed and enjoyed his retirement cabin at Lake Tenkiller into his twilight years.

DOROTHY SHELTON



OBLONG, Ill. — Dorothy Margaret 'Dottie' O'Bar-Shelton of West York died July 19, 2015 at Ridgeview Care Center in Oblong at the age of 78. She was born Aug. 9, 1936 in Coweta, Okla., the daughter of T. Kenneth O'Bar and Iva M. Beeman-O'Bar, who preceded her in death.

Dottie was a 1954 graduate of Robinson High School and went on to work various jobs throughout her life, including the Hollywood Shop, Goodyear Tire and R&L Readymix. Away from work, Dottie was an avid collector of many things. She was a regular face at auctions, flea markets and garage sales. She also loved living out in the country where she could indulge her love for dogs, cats and animals of all sorts.

She was a member of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, the Loyal Order of the Moose, American Legion Auxiliary Post #69 and a proud Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

She was preceded in death by: brothers, Russell S. Harbison, Phillip L. Harbison, Thomas K. O'Bar and Gary J. O'Bar; sisters, Rosalie K. O'Bar and Helen K. Roberts and granddaughter, Carrie L. Shull.

She married John Shelton Feb. 14, 1990, and he survives. She is also survived by her: sons, Gregory A. Shull of West York, Gene P. and Lola Shull of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Gary K. Shull of Greenwood, Indiana; grandchildren, Allyssa Shull of Mount Carmel and Matthew Shull of Marion; great-grandson, Kalin Perry of Mount Carmel; step-sons and step-daughters-in-law, Mike and Mary Shelton and Mark and Teresa Shelton; step-grandchildren, Andrea Jackson, Nicki Shaw, Michael Robert Shelton, Andrew Shelton and Samantha Switzer; numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; sister, Billie J. Brown of Fries, Va. as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dottie will be remembered as a vibrant and loving person. She never met a stranger and greeted everyone she ever met or knew with kindness and compassion. She was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Funeral services were set July 22 at the funeral home with Pastor Art Orndorff officiating. Burial followed in the Medsker Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Medsker Cemetery, with envelopes available at the funeral home.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Dorothy 'Dottie' Shelton please visit our Sympathy Store.

MARCY TIGER



BETHESDA, Md. — After many complications with cancer, Marcy Coleman Tiger, beloved husband, father and Papa, began his journey to the Creator at the age of 70 on the morning of Dec. 9, 2015 surrounded by his family at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

He was born March 8 1945 in Tahlequah, Okla., the fourth son of Johnny Moore and Lucinda Lewis Tiger. He was of the Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations and very proud of his full blood heritage. He was enrolled with MCN.

Marcy proudly served his country for nearly 40 years, serving 23 years on active duty in the U.S. Army. While on active duty, he was deployed to Korea and in 1991; he was deployed to the Middle East during Desert Storm. For his exemplary service, he was awarded the: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal 4th Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southeast Asia Service Medal with Three Bronze Service Stars and Saudi Arabia/Kuwait Liberation Medal.

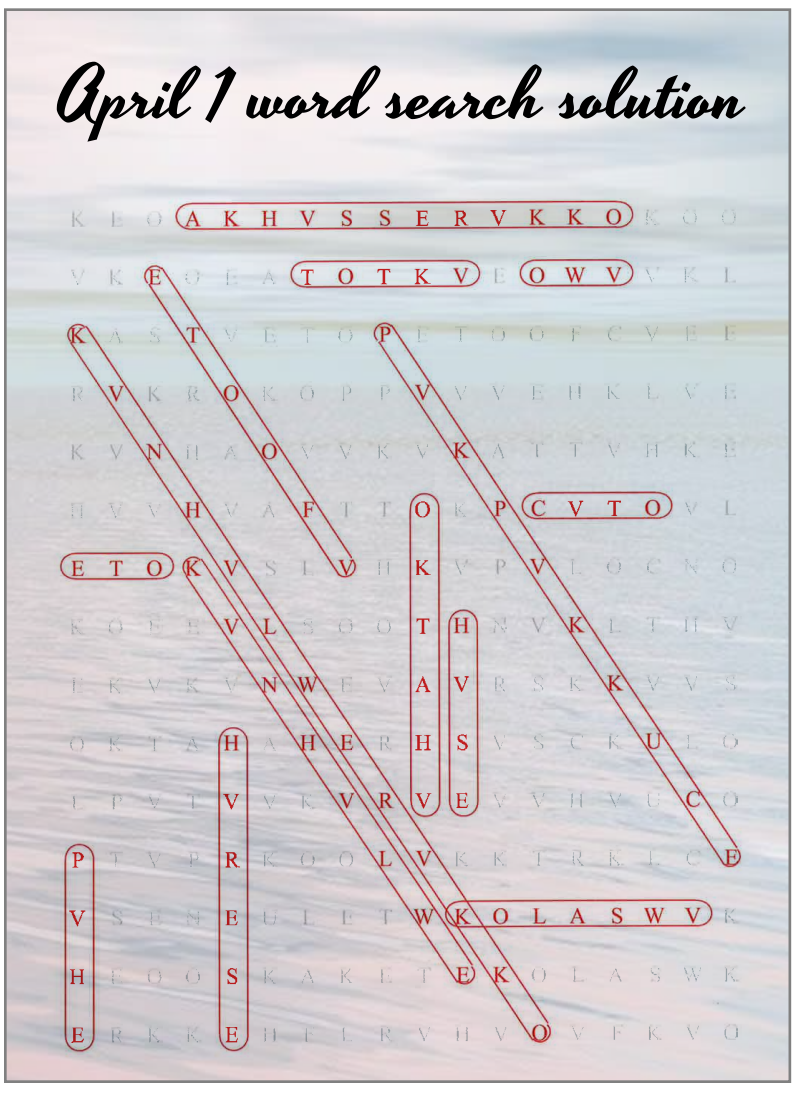
He mentored and became family to many of the troops with whom he served. After retiring from active duty, he worked in the civilian world where he met people who became lifelong friends. Marcy returned to serve his country by working 16 years at the Pentagon as a force structure management analyst. During this time, he was deeply involved in developing recommendations that influenced the future design of the total Army. He was an amazing teammate, earning the enduring respect of all who had the good fortune to service with him. Marcy's exceptional contributions were recognized with the Superior Civilian Service Award upon his retirement in July 2015.

He is survived by his: loving and devoted wife of 48 years, Sandra K. Tiger and daughter, Lea Tiger, her fiancé, James Byrd and their children Zack, Cole and Mara of Florida; daughter, Yvonne Tiger, her husband, Paul McKenzie-Jones and their children Jordan and Lucinda of Montana; son, Chebon Tiger, his wife Carla and their children Chace, Chelsey and Christian of Texas; his mother, Lucinda; sister, Rita Tiger and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

He is preceded in death by his father, Johnny Tiger, Sr., three brothers and a sister.

Private cremation services were held Dec. 12, 2015 at Mountcastle Funeral Home (www.Mountcastle.net) in Dale City, Va. A celebration of his life and burial with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery will be planned for Spring 2016. A memorial in Marcy's hometown of Eufaula, Okla., was held Dec. 19, 2015 at West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church followed by a meal at the Eufaula Indian Community Center.

The man we knew touched so many lives and inspired everyone he met. He had a laugh and a gentle smile that was infectious. Marcy was an avid sports fan. He liked the University of Oklahoma Sooners football team, as was evidenced by a lot of OU tee shirts and hats. In his younger days, he always played third base and slid into base whenever he could. He gave up softball for his love of golf, which he passed onto his grandchildren. He loved meeting other Indian people and talking with them about their culture and exchanging stories. He loved his family and the joys that come with being a husband, father and a papa. He will be greatly missed by many. We were blessed to have him in our lives.



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

May 1, 2016 "Ke Hvse" Mulberry Month

Vol. 46, Issue 9



Cultural Center brings traditional canoe making to Okmulgee — Page 10

'Mekko' showing held at Okmulgee Orpheum — Page 11

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

Homeless veterans program set to start late summer

Feds setting up structure for implementation

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A multi-million dollar federal grant to assist Native American homeless veterans was announced by U.S. Department of Housing Secretary Julian Castro Jan. 8 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes winter quarterly meeting in Tulsa.

By early April though, none of the regulations or staff to conduct the program had been put in place so no finances have been available to implement it.

Of the 26 tribes chosen nationally, Muscogee (Creek) Nation is scheduled to receive $216,566 from the Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program. It would supply vouchers for 20 participants to support them for a year.

MCN Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis said there are already veterans who

Homeless ~ 5



Internet image



Sterling Cosper_Stock art

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed a resolution approving a $65.68 million loan to address the reported financial deficit at the MCN Health Department during a March 21 extraordinary session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Fractured Finances: $65 million loan approved to resuscitate health department

Legislation approved two loans, purchased facilities, funded improvements

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The estimated amount needed for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health to balance the books and return operations to a positive number is around $65.68 million, according to documents provided at a March 21 MCN National Council extraordinary session.

The documents indicate that since fiscal year 2014, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health cumulative enterprise account has been operating in the red for a total amount of $28.68 million.

According to the same documents, the estimated FY 2016 cumulative enterprise account worst-case deficit is $22.5 million, in addition to an $8.5 million financial need to furnish and equip the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah and a $6 million financial need for contract health services.

The documents also include line graphs that show operating funds versus expenditures for various branches of the health department.

The documents can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/js6pzhc.

On March 21, the Council passed TR 16-045 to obtain a $65.68 million loan to restore MCNDH funds and realign the department to function more efficiently.

"Hopefully the number can stay lower than that, $40-$45 million," Council Speaker Lucian Tiger said during a March 22 interview.

He said there will be another piece of legislation reviewed to approve the loan agreement, which will be taken out in draws instead of one lump sum.

Health ~ 3

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

Bad language on Capitol Hill, 'Chief Wahoo' demoted, Navajo fish story

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The formerly highest ranking education official for the federal Bureau of Indian Education got caught in a horrible case of cronyism, admitted it in Congressional testimony and used the 'f-word' in doing so.

According to a couple of national Native news sources, Navajo Nation citizen Charles 'Monty' Roessel was removed March 30 from his position as BIE director.

An Interior Department's Office of Inspector General report found Roessel had abused his position to hire a girlfriend and also get a relative a cushy job.

During the OIG investigation, Roessel acknowledged that he was involved in hiring a woman as a program analyst and that they had an 'intimate' relationship that began before Roessel became BIE director and before she was hired at BIE.

The DOI Inspector General's website said in its In-

Emvpanayv ~ 9

Council opposes bill aimed at weakening artifact protection

Legislature approved measure sent to governor

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation legislation has been introduced asking Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to veto Georgia Senate Bill 346.

The bill is aimed at loosening inspection requirements under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act aimed at protecting cultural and historical sites potentially affected by Georgia Department of Transportation projects.

Under SB 346, GDOT would still have to follow federal laws that require such studies and notice to tribes whose resources might be affected on projects using federal funds, land or permits. However, it would waive state inspection laws on projects using state funds that cost under $100 million.

MCN Cultural Preservation Department Interim Manager and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Rae-Lynn Butler said in previous 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage that the majority of GDOT projects in Georgia

Protection ~ 2



MNN File Photo

MCN talks ICWA in lieu of national case

New issue involving foster care of tribal citizen reignites debate

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At the end of March, another controversial child custody battle involving a tribal citizen has reached an impasse.

In the most recently completed case on the matter, a southern California family court ruled to have a six-year-old Choctaw Nation citizen known as 'Lexi' removed from her foster family in the area and returned to her biological kin in Utah.

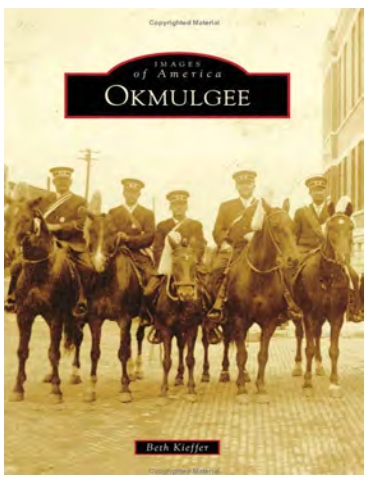
The dispute began in 2011, when the foster family filed litigation contesting efforts by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to place Lexi with blood relatives of her father, who is her citizenship link to the tribe.

These efforts are in accordance with the 1978 federal Indian Child Welfare Act.

According to the National Indian Child Welfare Association, ICWA was passed to keep American Indian Chil-

ICWA ~ 8

Local publishes book on Okmulgee



Book cover
The history of Okmulgee, Okla., is featured in the 'Images of America' series.

Work features MCN history on its capitol

Amanda Rutland
Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee joined the 'Images of America' book series from Arcadia publishing.

According to the Arcadia website, the series features history of small towns across the country.

Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Archivist and Reference Librarian Beth Kieffer worked with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives as well as the Okmulgee Public Library to gather photos and information, which took about a year.

"(I) started picking pictures out and kind of after I saw what I had access to and what I was going to be able to use, I started to kind of research around those," Kieffer said.

The book starts with the Indian Removal Act, which forced the Mvskoke people from Alabama and Georgia to Indian Territory.

"I went back as far back as the 1830s, considering that Okmulgee wouldn't have even been settled, founded or anything without the fact that the Muscogee (Creek) tribe was removed in the 1830s," Kieffer said.

The story of Okmulgee continues with the settlement of land by the Upper and Lower Creeks in Indian Territory and some MCN history.

The book is divided into the Indian Territory era, statehood and the discovery of oil, the Great Depression and World War II on up to the 1980s.

Kieffer said the book was in line with her role as an archivist.

"As an archivist, one of the big things that is kind of a movement in our field is to kind of open history up to people by giving them context," Kieffer said. "It's not just a photo of someone from 1896. Where did they come from? Where did they start out?"

Kieffer shared some of her favorite things about the book.

"Probably some of my favorite photographs were the really early buildings, like the Severs block was one of the first kind of mercantile kind of buildings after the Creek Council House was built," Kieffer said.

Kieffer said she encountered some surprises.

"I was really, really surprised how much oil changed Okmulgee… Something I found at one point said there were like 43 millionaires or billionaires even living in Okmulgee," Kieffer said.

Kieffer thought this project happened at a good time.

"There is so much going on in Okmulgee right now with Okmulgee Rising and Muscogee (Creek) Nation doing so much with so many different businesses around the state," Kieffer said. "I felt it was a perfect time to kind of put something out and maybe start a little bit of a discussion about, you know, the good old days or maybe some stories that weren't so much the good old days."

Kieffer summarized the experience the book has given her.

"It's a neat little town and as you start kind of digging especially doing this," she said. "I got to find out a lot of little stories and tidbits and meet people that I probably never would have gotten to meet anywhere else."

For more information about or to purchase the book, visit the Arcadia Publishing website at: http://tinyurl.com/zpk4lcp and it is also available at: www.Amazon.com.

Protection

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will be state instead of federally funded due to a bill that passed last year.

"So what that means is the regulations and kind of protection that sacred sites or cultural resources, environmental studies, those kind of get overlooked because that federal funding isn't involved," she said.

MCN has historic interest in the entire state of Georgia. Many sites are undocumented or unknown.

"Sometimes we do get notified about that. It's called an inadvertent discovery that happens. No one anticipated it happening, but it happens and then the tribes are notified on how to proceed," Butler said.

In a written statement dated March 8, SB 346 sponsor Sen. Brandon Beach said that the bill does not remove the coverage of historic and burial sites.

'Because of the commitment and foresight from the General Assembly, Georgia has the ability to invest in transportation infrastructure improvements and repairs across the state. Under existing law, as a part of the approval process, each project is required to comply with six state environmental standards.

'One of these required standards is defined in the Georgia Abandoned Cemetery and Burial Grounds Act. This covers historical sites used for burial or cemetery purposes.'

Beach also said the bill would save taxpayer money.

'SB 346 allows the Georgia Department of Transportation the ability to forego an Environmental Effects Report, which consumes tax payer dollars and takes months to compile and approve, if and only if the project that has passed the standards of the six environmental studies currently required by law…'

'Indian Country Today Media Network' reported that an amendment was passed March 14 following a petition by the Society of Georgia Archaeologists demonstrating concerns. Former MCN Cultural Preservation Manager Alen Cook commented on the amendment April 11 during an MCN National Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting where TR 16-063 was introduced to call for a veto of SB 346.

"The language was modified to retain cultural resource studies in this but it's weakly worded," Cook said. "It almost leaves it to the discretion of GDOT as to execute the historic resource studies."

In part the amendment states, '…Except that an environmental evaluation shall be considered in the decision-making process, consistent with paragraph (3) of Code Section 12-16-2, when it is probable to expect significant adverse impact on historical sites or buildings and cultural resources.'

Cook said it is easier to anticipate adverse impact on non-Native sites.

"If you're a white Georgian there, your interest may be protected because a building would be identifiable on site," Cook said. "If you're looking at Creek property, it won't really be identifiable just by on-site inspection."

He said it leaves the need for inspections open to interpretation.

"That sentence you read there too is the weak part of this because it states it in such an ambiguity that it's all in who is reading it at that point in time," Cook said.

MCN Council Rep. Del Beaver, who performed similar studies during his time with MCN Environmental Services, asked if it was possible to provide recommendations on SB 346 and said he could understand some cost saving measures on behalf of the state.

"In actuality, if you're going to improve a public road, what was there is already destroyed," Beaver said.

Beaver said the $100 million limit was enough to finance new road projects.

Cook said the time to make recommendations would have been before the bill passed the House and that the veto request is a first step considering the time period available to intervene.

"My understanding of their constitution is that if he doesn't sign it after 40 days, I believe it becomes law anyway," he said. "I think that's a foregone conclusion but I think action needs to be taken anyways."

According to the Georgia General Assembly website, SB 346 was sent to the governor March 31 and a representative from his office said the signature deadline is May 3 citing policy review and other processes that affect the timetable.

He predicted the bill would be signed citing overwhelming support in the House but said it was important for MCN to make the statement and that further action was possible through federal pressure.

"…There may be the need for another TR statement that would be directed to Federal Highways and the Federal Department of Transportation and they would begin monitoring Georgia and there may be enough pressure that would come from withholding the federal dollars that would cause them rescind that kind of law," Cook said.

Butler said her office did not know about SB 346 until the middle of March.

"…We called GDOT right after that and they said it was already going through," she said.

She said GDOT has vocally agreed to continue notifying tribes about relevant projects but that her department and other Five Civilized Tribes discussed seeking a formal agreement with the state to get it in writing.

"But we don't want it to be to where you know, this comes up and then, 'well we said we were going to contact you all' and then, 'we don't have to,' " Butler said.

TR 16-063 passed in committee 4-0 and was set for review during the April 26 Council planning session before potentially going to a full vote at the April 30 quarterly session.

"Like you said, it seems like this is a statement that could have been made earlier," said LNC Chairperson Darrell Proctor. "It is sitting on the governor's desk now waiting to be signed. This won't be passed until the 30th of April and that's going to be almost close over the 40 day period there."

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The other option considered to correct the deficit was taking the sum from the permanent fund.

"Basically what we would've lost by withdrawing that large amount from the permanent fund, we were going to lose the interest on the permanent fund that we use to do special appropriations," Lucian Tiger said. "Also, you would've had to pay a fee for drawing those stocks out at this point in time."

He said that using a loan as opposed to withdrawing monies from the permanent fund would save an estimated $2 million in interest.

He said a majority of the loan will be paid back out of the debt retirement account.

The $65.68 million loan is in addition to the $86 million loan for the construction of the Okemah hospital and clinic in Eufaula, as well as an estimated $28.66 million in large spending approvals for MCNDH since August 2013.

These were used to acquire existing facilities, build new ones and fund new and current programs.

'MNN' was in contact with former Principal Chief George Tiger for comment via phone call and text message March 22, March 23, March 28 and March 31, and was unable to secure an interview or statement.

George Tiger released a statement to the 'Okmulgee News Network' April 14, discussing the reported health deficit.

The statement can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/zbal37n.

'The idea that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe has a crisis with a $65 million deficit is farthest from the truth,' the statement reads.

George Tiger said in the statement that the figures being presented to the Council, 'to a large degree is not the true picture.'

'I believe that the current management of Health Services was asked to bring the worst-case scenario of the operation itself. I would have asked to see the best case scenario and work from there.'

He also stated that the purchase of new equipment and furniture was not a deficit number.

'Also some of the monies they are asking for from the National Council are going towards equipment and furniture and other things needed. It is not a deficit.

'These are things that would be asked for later down the line and they just put everything in one package and presented it to the Council.'

George Tiger also discussed the permanent fund in the statement.

'We actually have a surplus, but the bad thing is that the tribe has tagged it as a permanent fund, because to some of the Council members that means we don't touch it. But it is a rainy day fund actually.

'I was always in favor of the ability to borrow from the permanent fund, so that we could pay ourselves back with interest so it could make more money, maybe even a point more than the going rate, but some of the leaders on the Council did not agree with that.'

Lucian Tiger said financials provided to the Council's Health, Education and Welfare Committee last year indicated the health department was negative $12 million.

"When the numbers were presented to us, yes they did show a negative but there was always an explanation of why they were a negative and there was also how we were going to make it up, what was going to offset that negative, so on and so forth," Lucian Tiger said. "And there was always a time period."

The resolution approving the $65.68 million loan states that quarterly reports given to Council during FY 2015 did not indicate that the health department was working under a deficit.

The resolution also states that the deficit was brought to the Council's attention Feb. 18 of this year.

"We never knew that there was a deficit from '14 carrying over. We never knew the actual deficit for '15," Lucian Tiger said. "And also looking at it, you're still going to have a deficit for '16 because the new administration didn't come in until January.

"So this total dollar amount you're seeing is offsetting and helping recoup monies from '14, '15 as well as a projected shortfall in '16."

He said the health department is also behind in paying the Nation for fringe benefits such as health insurance for the department's employees in an amount around $14-$15 million.

George Tiger said in his statement published by 'ONN,' that no information was withheld from the Council during his administration.

'Everything during my administration in terms of all programs all information has always been presented to the Council, in fact, back in November my former Secretary of Health Seneca Smith met with the Council at an HEW Committee meeting about the same things being addressed now.'

He said the deficit for the fringe benefits dates back prior to him taking office.

'MNN' requested copies of legislation reviewed by the Council that included large expenditures and large project approvals since August 2013.

The funding accounts for each expenditure vary from MCN and health department funding accounts.

'MNN' also researched through its own and the Council's records made available on their website for legislation passed concerning the health department.

A total of 30 pieces of legislation regarding the health department were reviewed, covering a 31-month time period and spanning three different two-year Council sessions.

See page four to view timeline.

Some Council representatives who held office at the time were absent during some of the referenced Council meetings.

In 2013, Council approved $7.57 million in expenditures plus the former Okmulgee Memorial Hospital (MCN Medical Center) debt assumption.

The Council approved the purchase of OMH and the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center (MCN Rehabilitation Center) as well as for building the new hospital in Okemah and dialysis center in Koweta.

Legislation authorizing the purchase of the MCN Rehabilitation Center and appropriating $1.5 million towards it passed 16-1 with former Rep. Kara Medina voting against both measures.

Legislation approving $2.7 million to hire One Architecture LLC for architecture services for the construction of the Okemah hospital passed 14-3 with former Reps. Keeper Johnson, David Nichols and Medina voting against it.

Legislation authorizing the purchase of MCN Medical Center and assumption of its debt, as well as approving $3 million for the MCN Medical Center operating budget passed 13-1 with Medina voting against both measures.

The remaining two pieces of legislation researched by 'MNN' passed unanimously.

George Tiger signed all of the measures.

In 2014, Council approved $7 million in expenditures including a new MRI at the MCN Medical Center. An $86 million loan to build the Okemah hospital and a new clinic in Eufaula was also approved.

The seven pieces of legislation researched by 'MNN' passed unanimously.

George Tiger signed all of the measures.

In 2015, Council approved approximately $14 million in expenditures including a supplement to replenish contract health funding of $4.5 million.

New programs and facilities were approved including a new emergency room at MCN Medical Center, EMS, ambulance and alert system upgrades and an orthodontics program.

MRI operations funding was also approved for the facility, which was approved as a project the previous year.

The 15 pieces of legislation researched by 'MNN' passed unanimously.

George Tiger signed all of the measures.

In 2016, Council approved unanimously a $65.68 million loan to restore health department funding to a positive number.

The other piece of legislation researched by 'MNN' updated a contract with Cerner and 3M Company regarding software for the department, which passed unanimously.

Lucian Tiger said he takes responsibility for the legislation he voted for.

"And absolutely, we're all responsible because we were all voting for the hospital in Okemah, for the Eufaula clinic," he said. "We all voted for that… So absolutely, we're all accountable for that."

George Tiger said in his statement published by 'ONN,' project proposals were presented to Council with the legislation.

'We didn't just go and arbitrarily ask for a certain amount of money. We came up with a business plan for the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital acquisition and the Council approved it. We felt it was (a) good decision for all parties involved.'

Lucian Tiger said he had not spoken with George Tiger as of his March 22 interview with 'MNN.'

Lucian Tiger said he had spoken with former Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith.

"And he just point blank tells me that he doesn't believe that the deficit at this point should be this large at this point in time," he said. "He doesn't agree with the numbers."

'MNN' reached out to Smith for comment March 30, April 7 and April 20, and left voicemails requesting a call back. Smith has not returned any phone calls as of April 20.

In further coverage of the reported health deficit, 'MNN' will review other documents and interviews obtained regarding MCN budgets, loans, audits and discussion of the issue by MCN officials.



TIMELINE OF MCNDH EVENTS

*TIMELINE ENTRIES DO NOT INCLUDE ALL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE MCN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
SOME ENTRIES ARE APPROPRIATIONS BY COUNCIL, AND SOME ENTRIES ARE APPROVAL FOR USE OF MCNDH FUNDS.

2012

September 24 - Council approves 2013 Health budget of $81.5 million

2013

August 2 - Council approves Manhattan Construction to build Okemah hospital
August 2 - Council approves $2.7 million for Okemah hospital architect
August 2 - Council approves George Nigh purchase for $1.5 million
August 2 - Council approves $360k for Koweta Dialysis Center
August 12 - Council approves purchase of OMH, $10k plus transfer of facility debt
August 12 - Council approves $3 million for Okmulgee Memorial Hospital operating expenses
September 20 - Council approves 2014 Health budget of $84.9 million
September 30 - 2013 Audit states Health ends year with $46.7 million net position
November - Mid-Term Elections

2014

January 29 - Council approves Cerner software for Health for $3 million
March 25 - Council approves $4 million for MRI and equipment for OMH, George Nigh and Okemah hospital
June 20 - 2013 audit report released
June 21 - Council approves Cerner software contract
July 1 - Council approves resolution for MRI
July 30 - Council approves obtaining one loan for the Okemah hospital and Eufaula clinic
September 26 - Council approves 2015 Health budget of $125.1 million
September 30 - Health ends FY 2014 with $16.5 million deficit
December 11 - Council approves $86 million loan for Okemah hospital and Eufaula Clinic
December 11 - Council approves fund accounts to pay loan

2015

March 3 - Council approves $350k interest payment on loan
March 3 - Council approves $3 million for Okmulgee ER
March 3 - Council approves $725k for Eufaula clinic architect and engineer
March 3 - Council approves 835k for MRI operation budget
March 3 - Council approves $440k for Okmulgee EMS
March 3 - Council approves $177k for Okmulgee ambulance and equipment
March 3 - Council approves $692k for orthodontics program
April 25 - Council approves architect agreement for Eufaula Clinic
June 20 - Council approves $71k for medical alert system upgrade
June 29 - 2014 audit report released
July 25 - Council approves $4.5 million supplement for contract health
July 25 - Council approves $600k grant match
September 26 - Council approves $2.7 million for equipment and operations for OMH, Rehab Center, Okemah hospital
October 31 - Council Cerner software contract
October 31 - Council approves Ross Group for Eufaula hospital construction
October 31- Council approves Okmulgee ER construction
November - November Elections

2016

January - James Floyd takes office
February 2 - Council approves 2016 Health budget of $131 million
February 27 - Council updates Cerner software contract
March 21 - Council approves $65.6 million loan to restore Health funding

Azbell confirmed as secretary of the interior

Plans shared for Council House, rebuilding federal relationships

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of the Interior Christopher Azbell was confirmed in his position through TR 16-031.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd nominated Azbell who was approved 13-2 during the March 17 MCN National Council regular session, with Reps. James Jennings and Johnnie Greene voting against the confirmation.

Azbell has a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a master's degree in political science with an emphasis in public administration and policy.

While in graduate school, Azbell began an internship with the MCN District Court under Judge Patrick Moore where he remained employed for around 10 years. He went on to work around two-and-a-half years with the MCN Cultural Center and Archives as special projects coordinator until being nominated for his current position.

"…The secretary of interior affairs is over a menagerie of different departments and you've got to be a real generalist and you got to know a little bit about a lot of things, the Realty Department, Tribal Transportation to the Environmental Department.

"So my education background and my experience over the last few years working with Creek Nation has really set me up to do well in this position and I think you got to have a passion to work in government," he said.

His position also oversees tribal entities like MCN Construction and Emergency Management.

"…We have a bunch of good employees under my realm but there were a few bad apples we had to cull out, but things are moving forward," Azbell said.

Azbell also has ties to the MCN capitol community, having served as Okmulgee vice mayor for 2014-2015 and a seat on the Okmulgee Main Street board, a community development group.

"They really want to see the Council House open. That's the gist of it," he said. "It's the heartbeat of Okmulgee. It's on everything we put out from a marketing standpoint."

During his tenure with CCA, the department had a structural assessment performed on the Council House and hired architects to draft plans for fully restoring it to original form.

They sought an appropriation from the National Council to begin financing construction costs that was denied due to cited budget concerns with the MCN Department of Health.

"So after that time, they should have encumbered some funds, either on the economic development because I think it's an economic development opportunity as well or work in the capitol improvement fund," Azbell said. "They didn't do that so obviously it's well known that we have some issues with our health administration…"

Azbell said this initiative is now in the works as MCN has gained 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to raise funds for historic ventures by taking over the Creek Council House Museum Association, which previously oversaw the property and accompanying collection.

The group has been renamed Creek Indian Memorial Association from when tribal citizens oversaw it.

Azbell said charitable groups such as the Kaiser Foundation will only donate to organizations with 501(c)(3) status, which makes the organization tax exempt and contributions to it tax deductible.

"It will be for all of our historic properties, whether or not you consider the country club a historic property, the Nuyaka Mission, the Sharp's Building, the Council House," he said.

Beyond exemption with the Internal Revenue Service, Azbell said he is looking to improve relations with another federal agency.

"It was a real contentious relationship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs that we've kind of actually turned that around.

"Here's the thing, we want to exert our sovereignty when we can but we also have to be realistic that the bureau makes decisions on our trust applications. They also make decisions on probates and all these different things that affect people's lives," he said.

Azbell said there are positive developments at MCN beyond recent problems that have arose.

"We have a great recycling facility. Citizens, not only Creek citizens but anybody can take recycling stuff over there," he said. "We have a roads program that is building roads all over this county, all over the original territorial boundary of the Creek Nation."

Through good and bad, Azbell said his policy along with the administration is to remain open with rare exception, such as commenting on issues in a way that affects negotiations.

"I have an open door. I like to encourage any citizen out there to see me," he said. "Come in if you have any issues, if you have any concerns. We may not agree on every single decision but I will listen to your side and you can listen to mine."

HOMELESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

qualify and expressed his disappointment in the timeframe.

"The Housing and Urban Development—Veterans Affairs support of housing grant is a great idea. It's more than welcome. We look forward to it," Davis said. "However, it looks like somebody jumped the gun. The money is loaded. However, it cannot be used until regulations are in, the implementation plan is in and the people from the VA to be hired are on board."

Davis said they are anticipating availability around July or August.

"This is one of the ones where everything should have been in place, ready to go the very next day they announced it," he said.

He said support on the local level rose to the occasion.

"We're all hyped out and ready to go, veterans lined up that are homeless or on the verge of being homeless," Davis said. "But, God bless Michelle Batchelor (HUD—VASH supervisor) because she did come up with alternatives for us to do in the meantime."

MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office Executive Officer Shawn Taryole said they had a meeting with Batchelor March 18 to get the program moving. Taryole said the federal agencies are in the process of posting jobs and they will begin the screening process once applications start coming in.

"It was a great meeting. She informed us a lot of how this program works," Taryole said.

Taryole said MCN VASO has been referring clients to the HUD-VASH office in Tulsa for any available assistance.

In January, MCN Housing Administrative Manager Brent Beaver said MCN Housing would coordinate with the Veterans Administration offices in Muskogee and Tulsa to assist with other needed services and management.

At that time, he estimated the money and accompanying rules might be available by the end of the month.

Beaver said April 6 that he had heard from HUD, who stated they were in a period of assembling an internal structure to run the program.

> **"Personally, I would have done all that press coverage after it's been on the ground and working."**
>
> **— MCN Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis**

"This program centers around a caseworker," Beaver said. "Since this is a new pilot program, is that they're getting the actual job descriptions and they will be the ones putting out the job postings."

He said the listings will go onto the federal employment website, www.USAJOBS.com.

Beaver acknowledged that the federal structure can be cumbersome and said his office will promote program availability after the positions have been filled.

"I would hopefully, within the next couple of months that they do release the job descriptions and application process," he said.

Batchelor said that in March, the Oklahoma tribes designated to receive the grant funds chose to have HUD recruit the necessary staff and administer the program.

She added that they have begun the process to post the caseworker jobs, which will have descriptions calling for licensed clinical social workers with experience in working with tribal programs.

Batchelor said the gap between Castro's announcement and the projected start date is not unusual.

"What I can say is, that's been pretty consistent with our experience in the past, that you have to get congressional approval to expand the program. Once you have that dedication in place and the funding stream is going to be in place, to then begin the implementation process.

"So, I think the announcements that came out in January were the validation of the intent to implement the program and now we're in the implementation part of the program," Batchelor said.

She echoed the late summer projection for fund availability.

Davis expressed his support for the federal staff oversight and respect for the necessary timeframe but stood by his opinion of the announcement.

"Personally, I would have done all that press coverage after it's been on the ground and working," he said.



2016

№42

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Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
6:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 10-12
8:00 AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_**ADULT**
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
8:00 Tennis Tournament—Hawthorne Park,
1237 N. Okmulgee Avenue, Okmulgee

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
5:00PM Living Legends—Mvskoke Dome
6:30PM Stomp Dance

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
8:00AM Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
11AM-5PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_**YOUTH**
—Mvskoke Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_**YOUTH**
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
9AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Mike Berryhill Memorial Bow Shoot_**ADULT**
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
3-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mvskoke Dome
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 26
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

All events occur at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted.

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CALL BACKS/Trades: June 15, 2 PM-5 PM (CST) $10 Trade Fee
JR. & SR. EVENTS run during slack | one go round
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Breakaway Roping
Barrel Racing
Bull Riding
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Breakaway Roping
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NativeVision Camp comes to MCN



NativeVision website

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives is partnering with the NativeVision organization to bring the NativeVision Camp June 9-11 to Okmulgee High School and the Mvskoke Sports Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Activities to focus on healthy minds, bodies, families, communities

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives is partnering with the NativeVision organization to bring the NativeVision Camp to Oklahoma for the first time June 9-11 at Okmulgee High School and the Mvskoke Sports Complex in Okmulgee.

"This is a big year for us. This is our 20th anniversary. It's our first time in Oklahoma," NativeVision Coordinator through Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health Marlena Hammen said.

According to the NativeVision website, their goal is to employ a sports-centered model to propel American Indian youth toward healthy futures and promote educational achievement, healthy lifestyles, cultural empowerment and a positive transition to fulfilling, productive adulthood.

"We get professional and collegiate athletes to volunteer their time to go out to a Native community and we put on a three-day sports camp and life skills camp," Hammen said.

According to the event flier, participants will have the opportunity to take part in one of six sport clinics: football, basketball, running, soccer, volleyball and lacrosse.

Also scheduled are cultural activities, Native games, life skills workshops, pro-player chats, all-start games and more.

There are workshops scheduled for parents as well.

"The main goal for us is healthy lifestyles," Hammen said.

The camp is designed to promote four major areas of well-being for Native children and families through healthy minds, bodies, families and communities according to the brochure.

"The camp is completely free to the kids and to the community," Hammen said.

The flier states the camp is open to ages seven-18 and provides the participants with breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as a place to stay overnight if they live over 60 miles away.

NativeVision is seeking volunteers to assist the campers and help with workshops.

Hammen said the organization awards two $5,000 scholarships to Native youth entering their first year of college.

Scholarship applications must be submitted by May 5. Campers and volunteers must submit their forms by June 6.

To register for camp or as a volunteer, or apply for the scholarships visit: www.nativevision.org. Campers and volunteers can also email their forms to: nativevisioncamp@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information contact MCN CCA at: 918-549-2434.

ICWA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dren with American Indian families and was in response to the alarmingly high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies.

The foster family, who was in the process of adopting Lexi, has filed an appeal on the decision with the California Supreme Court.

This follows a case that began in 2013 commonly known as 'Baby Veronica.'

It involved a non-Native family in South Carolina, the Capobiancos, who adopted a child eligible for citizenship with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma through her father Dusten Brown.

The defense stated that the father of the child mistakenly signed away his parental rights to the birth mother, unaware that the child was going to be adopted.

The adoption was contested in the South Carolina Supreme Court where Brown was awarded custody.

However the Capobiancos appealed this to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that Brown did not have rights under ICWA and sent the case back to the South Carolina Supreme Court for reconsideration, where the adoptive family was awarded custody.

Could something similar to these happen with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation?

MCN Children and Family Services Administration Manager of State Reunification Services in Jurisdiction, Kimee Wind-Hummingbird said there are a small number of adoption and foster care situations involving Muscogee (Creek) children that are out-of-state.

"With my program, we are just involved within the 11-county jurisdiction," Hummingbird said. "Myself and my team, we work with local and state courts."

Hummingbird said she would seek to follow ICWA if a similar situation arose at MCN.

"It is important for us as a tribe to step up and get a vested interest in our children."

— MCN CFSA
Manager of State Reunification Services in Jurisdiction
Kimee Wind-Hummingbird

"We would want them to be in a Creek home," Hummingbird said. "If there are siblings, that is an important aspect at what we look at too. We want all of our siblings to try and grow up together if at all possible."

She said MCN has a shortage of Muscogee (Creek) foster homes available but thanked the existing ones.

"They are doing a service to our children," Hummingbird said.

This arrangement is for minors who are awaiting a permanent living situation, either through adoption or placement back with a member of their family.

"It is important for us as a tribe to step up and get a vested interest in our children," Hummingbird said.

She clarified that the final goal is to get them back with their families.

"It is a temporary home until that child can be reunified with their parent," Hummingbird said. "That's our goal, is to get the kids home with their parent."

The program monitors conditions with the original parent(s) to see whether or not this is good for the child.

In instances where custody with the parents is terminated, Hummingbird said they will try to place them with other members of the family.

Lexi was placed with her biological sisters who are Choctaw but under the care of non-Native relatives.

Is this an issue?

Hummingbird said a relative is still a relative whether they are Native or not.

However, she strongly suggests that non-Native relatives use outlets available to help these children stay in touch with their culture.

"We want them to reach out to the resource they have within the family to continue that," Hummingbird said.

Lexi is also one sixty-fourth Choctaw. Does blood quantum matter?

"I don't think that it does," Hummingbird said. "A Creek citizen is a Creek citizen regardless of blood quantum."

For more information about MCN CFSA foster care and adoption call: 918-732-7869.

Graduate profiles due May 13

MNN/*Media Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will be featuring 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation high school, military, technical school and college graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition of the 'MNN.'

Graduate submissions should include full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

Profiles will be edited for Associated Press style, structure, grammar, spelling, length and punctuation. A recent digital photo should also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 13 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

NativeVision™
20th Annual Sports & Life Skills Camp
June 9th-11th, 2016
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
&
Okmulgee High School
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
SPORTS & AGE GROUPS
Lacrosse 7-18
Soccer 7-18
Running 9-18
Volleyball 11-18
Basketball 11-18
Football 12-18
FREE EVENT
*** TRANSPORTATION NOT PROVIDED***
APPLICATIONS DUE Monday, June 6th
Register Online: www.nativevision.org
OR
Email nativevisioncamp@mcn-nsn.gov for a copy of the application
Questions contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Center & Archives Office
(918)549-2434



MNN File Photo

DeLaune's Corner: building connection through discomfort

Can you stare at me for four minutes?

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Have you ever stopped and stared at someone you cared for so much while they were not looking? What went through your head? The other question is, what did you do when they stared back?

You turned away right?

A lot of people do. Some will keep staring but overall, we get shy if we get caught. I admit that this is my reaction.

My daughter and a handful of people who I care about have caught me in this predicament. Some will not call me out on it but then there are others who will ask, 'Why are you staring at me,' or 'What?'

I am always on the social networking website, Facebook (who isn't?). I see all types of videos. Some that make you laugh, cry or laugh and cry. There are some that make you think too. Make you want to experiment.

There is a video that is going around that I recently watched.

The subject was about relationships becoming more and more disconnected.

The people who made the video wanted you to share a moment of four minutes with someone that you cared about. Examples that were shown were husband-wife, mother-son, father-daughter, brother-sister and sister-sister.

In the video it asked; could staring at someone for four minutes improve your relationship?

All they had to do was stare. While being filmed, a lot of them broke eye contact. It is hard to do. There were smiles, tears, laughter, conversations and hugs among the subjects.

After the experiment, they spoke about what they went through and how they felt after it was over. All of them showed happiness.

Why?

Why were they happier after four minutes with someone who they see almost every day?

It is because focus was on the person they were looking at, nobody else, just the person across from them.

It seemed that a stronger relationship was made, their bond was stronger and the person that they were close to, became closer.

There were some words that came out of the experiment that we hear all the time like emotional, love, important and treasure.

But there was one that although no one said it, was put on the screen in red letters at the end. Protect.

Everyone in the video has something that they almost lost. By doing what they did they assured themselves that their relationship is protected. It is more secured.

The people in the video saw something that they already know. They saw a love for someone that in some cases and over time, they did not express. In those four minutes, to me, it seemed that their world changed.

So with everyone who reads this column, try it out. Maybe you will open up a new door with someone you love. Or possibly, the love that you thought was fading will be renewed.

So, what about you? Can you stand in front of someone you love for four minutes and stare? Do you think it will make your relationship stronger and more stable? Do me favor, find out.

To view this video: http://tinyurl.com/z9azdqv.

"It seemed that a stronger relationship was made, their bond was stronger and the person that they were close to, became closer."

— Darren DeLaune

Darren has been with Mvskoke Media since 2009. He has always (and still does) played sports so he wanted to write about it. What started with sports, turned into features, columns, articles, whatever he can find around the MCN. He enjoys trying new things, which helped him become an avid dancer of bachata. Darren has one daughter, Syeann.
View all short biographies for Mvskoke Media staff at: www.mvskokemedia.com.

EMVPANAYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

vestigation of Improper Hiring at the BIE, 'Roessel's involvement in these hires appears to violate the "basic obligation of public service," as defined in the C.F.R., as well as U.S.C. prohibitions against advocating for the hiring of relatives and granting preference or advantage to any Federal employee or job applicant.'

According to Indianz.com citing the uncensored report, 'when confronted with what appeared to be conflicting explanations about his involvement, Roessel responded with some amazing candor. "You're right; I ****** up." '

Such honesty from a federal official! F-bombs away!

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the adoptive parents in the 'Baby Veronica' case, in spite of her father's battle to gain custody according to terms of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Earlier this year, a California court decided not to get involved in the case of the Choctaw Nation versus adoptive parents over six-year-old 'Lexi.'

The child was removed from the care of adoptive parents who were aware of the little girl's Choctaw heritage but battled to keep her. 'Lexi' has since been placed with a Utah family who care for Lexi's sister.

The 'Chief Wahoo' logo of the Cleveland Indians will not have a prominent place in the baseball team promotions.

'The Cleveland Plain Dealer' newspaper reported that the team's front office has moved in favor of the block letter capital 'C' as their primary mark.

For years, the bucktooth caricature has been the target of many Indian activists who declared the image as demeaning to Native people.

The team's owner said they will not be getting rid of the logo entirely, but that it just won't be used as prominently. Are you listening Disneyland-On-The-Potomac R-skins?

Also, the Cleveland City Council passed a bill April 5 making it harder to post banners that create problems, like in the 'Chief Wahoo' dispute.

Reports cited a statement by the Downtown Cleveland Alliance, which hung the mascot banner.

'Since becoming aware of this issue and the lack of historical permit for or our management of the program on file, we have been actively working with the City on the approval process to rectify matters and develop clear articulate guidelines for all future banner installations.'

The Navajo Nation has a second major movie translated into Dine', their tribal language. This time, it's the undersea fish story, 'Finding Nemo.' The tribe has already been successful through the 2013 translation of 'Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope.'

Back in 2013, a Methodist minister from Bethany sued to change the Oklahoma license plates, saying the image of an Apache archer shooting an arrow into the sky violated his religious beliefs.

The minister declared he shouldn't have to display state tags that support religions other than Christianity.

His case was dismissed in 2014 so Keith Cressman appealed it all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court said no to the case in March.

For what it probably cost him in legal fees, it seems like he could have just bought one of the other customized license plates offered by the state of Oklahoma.

Country music legend Merle Haggard passed away recently. One of the singer's most famous tunes was 'Okie from Muskogee,' a song that talked about a point of view against marijuana use.

It seems that 'The Hag' gave 'Men's Journal' an interview where he defended a tribe's rights to grow and process industrial grade hemp as an economic enterprise.

It's the graduation season. Graduating Native students will be donning the traditional caps and gowns to receive their diplomas.

A trend for some students in Indian Country has been to top off their mortarboard caps by wearing an eagle feather to honor their achievement.

This move has met some resistance in different places, including Oklahoma. But the state of Washington feels differently about it. At the end of January, state school officials sent out a letter.

The letter states, '[T]he eagle feather is a symbol of such high honor in the tribal community…it should not be viewed as a violation of the graduation ceremony dress codes.'

Well done Washington.

Speaking of graduations, the deadline for inclusion in the special June 1 'Muscogee Nation News' graduate edition is coming up.

Friday, May 13 by 5 p.m. is the deadline. Email Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com or call him at: 918-732-7697 for the profile form, which includes the basic guidelines.

You've been warned, so don't be late, NO LATE PROFILES ACCEPTED.

Hvtvm Cehecares — I will see you again.

MVTO

OKMULGEE, Okla. — My wife, Melodie and I want to thank you so much for your assistance with our Indigenous Outreach 2016 revival held March 28-April 1 at the Mvskoke Dome.

Thank you for your foresight of the need for this revival and the rebirth of our roots in our Native Christianity.We are excited to report that we had a great turnout and response from not only our citizens but the surrounding communities. Many have already asked if we are going have it again next year along with several ministers inquiring about participation. We touched many lives and feel that spiritual fires were rekindled not only in individuals; but the many churches that attended. We had 456 attend over the five days, an average of almost 100 a night. Again, we thank you. With your help, that we were able to do God's work and promote his vision.

Thank you Brother James..

Also, we would like you to know that the staff there was so helpful with preparation before and assisting during all five evenings. Mr. Rojer Johnson and his staff at Tourism and Recreation were extremely courteous, helpful and professional. I would gladly recommend this young man and his staff to anyone who needed the services of the Dome. He made sure that we had access to plenty of electrical outlets for our equipment. His staff had chairs ready for us to put out, the place was always clean and neat and the microphone system was set up and ready when we needed it. They did a superb job and I hope you will duly note so.

In addition, two young men, Jalen Frank and Damon Davidson were there every evening to assist us or answer our questions. These two were the ones who had the sound system set up and provided us with a room to store our equipment so we would not have to carry it in and out every night, and made sure the room was locked and secure.

They were not only helpful, but very polite and courteous. We, always, seem to hear about the negative things concerning our youth…but, these two restored my hopes of hard working and dedication that we so need and desire in our youth as well as instilled my confidence that the future of our Nation will be in good hands.

Please see that they know that we appreciate all they have done. In addition, we want to thank Chebon Gouge for his assistance and advertising our event on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation marquee. We want to thank Mr. Jason Salsman, Mr. Sterling Cosper, Mr. Gary Fife of Mvskoke Media for being so gracious in helping us get the word out to our citizens and others. Once again; because it all starts with you, Chief…

God Bless you and yours!
Respectfully,
Rev. Grover D. Wind
Melodie L. Wind







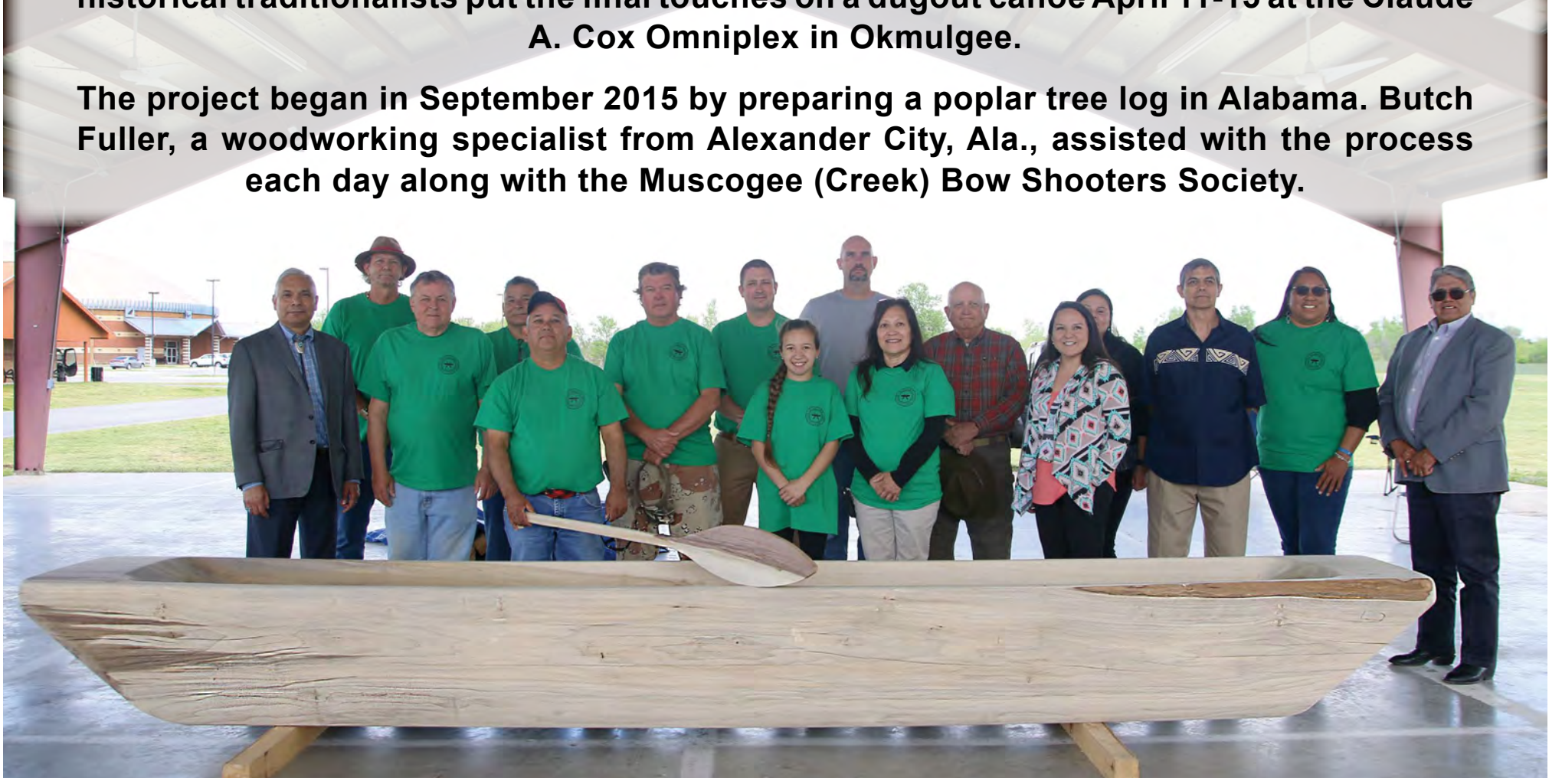






OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives and historical traditionalists put the final touches on a dugout canoe April 11-15 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

The project began in September 2015 by preparing a poplar tree log in Alabama. Butch Fuller, a woodworking specialist from Alexander City, Ala., assisted with the process each day along with the Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society.



‘Mekko’ showing held at Okmulgee Orpheum



Amanda Rutland/MNN

A showing of the film ‘Mekko’ by Sterlin Harjo April 14 was sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Okmulgee, Okla., which included a question and answer session with the audience.

Harjo talks comedy, inspiration during Q&A

Amanda Rutland
Media Specialist

Contains some adult language

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives sponsored a showing of Sterlin Harjo’s film ‘Mekko’ April 14 at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Okmulgee.

After the film, the audience was invited to stay for a question and answer session with Harjo and cast member Wotko Long:

SH: Wotko has a story about when he came to set. For the first day he came to set he had a whole wardrobe of things he could pick out. I will let him tell the rest.

WL: Well I got over there. They got this big old rack of homeless clothes and they tell us, ‘go up there and pick you some clothes’ you know, for this movie. So, I walk up there and I am looking at them, going through them and I look down at my own clothes. Sterlin goes, ‘Wear what you got.’

You know, he called me up and he told me, ‘I am making a new movie and it’s about the homeless people in Tulsa. I have a part here. It is an extra part and I just want to know if you want to play it, that part, and I say, ‘Hell, yeah. I’ll try it.’

You know, it’s an opportunity to be on screen and everybody always dreams of being on screen and so. He came by and dropped this big old thick booklet, like that. Looking at it, I was about ready to give it back and he says, ‘That’s not all you. That’s not all you.’ So I read it that night and he says, ‘Give me a call. What you think?’

I said, ‘I’ll do it. That’s me. I was homeless for a while too,’ and I said, ‘I think I can do that. I’ll try it,’ but it was just, I was just glad he gave me this opportunity and I think the documentary that he made before was ‘Espoketis Kerreskoks (This Maybe the Last Time)’ is what got me going.

Cause I have been around a lot and been doing the interviews and this one here, when we went to LA, Little Axe, we did the red carpet thing up there.

That was just something you know, have to witness it. It was too fast for me. I am at a age where these guys were still running around all night in LA. It would have been right around midnight at night and here I was still walking with them, trying to hang with them. I just told them I’ve got to go.

You know, in my younger years I would, but it was good. I liked it and I just want to thank this man again.

You know he is an artist too. I always said that. You know Dana Tiger is a good friend of mine, she is an artist and puts hers on canvas and this guy puts his on the screen, you know. His art moves around and it tells stories, but just wanted to say mvto to this man here. A good gift that he has given me. Mvto.

SH: Mvto. Yeah, Wotko is like, my dream for Wotko is to, you know, those big cheesy Hollywood movies that always has an elder Indian in it, told stories by a campfire or something.

That’s what I hope in like three years we see him at a fire with his shirt off and buckskin, breechcloth you know (laughs) really selling out and being cheesy like a Lakota guy or something.

But any questions for us? We’ll talk about anything and we will wait here until ya’ll do. Might as well get it over with now.

Q: Y’all going to make another one?

SH: We going to make another one? Yeah, I think so. You know after working with Wotko twice, you know, I would always put Wotko in my films.

So, the new film that I am writing is for the 1491s. It’s about a tribal election and I love that everybody laughs.

If it’s Indians, they know what we are talking about. It writes itself, but the tribal chairman dies in like the first five pages or something cause he is, I don’t even know if I should say this cause there is like elders in here.

Let’s just say he is getting hosakle (horny) with his secretary. His heart stops and so after that, it is an emergency election and all of the crazies come out of the woodwork to run.

It’s kind of trying to poke fun at people cause, you know, Indians will really act like we’re all best friends and we get along so good. Then, as soon as election comes, you know, we are stabbing each other in the back, doing whatever it takes.

So, it is kind of making fun of that whole things and politics and I think it will be pretty funny.

That is the first time I have ever got to say hosakle at a screening (laughs). My grandma would be proud. All right next question.

Q: Who were some Natives that inspire you?

SH: Who are some Natives that inspire me? Hmm, you know really it’s like there’s artists that I really like, visual artists you know that I look up to a lot. Like people that have gone on and passed on at this point, but mainly it’s my family I think.

You know, whenever I make movies I think that whenever I write them, the main thing I am trying to do is capture the way my family told stories and man they can make, and I am sure it is like that with all of y’all.

You hear a person that is a good storyteller in your family and they can tell the simplest story about going down to the story, but it’s like hour long and full of life and like hilarious and some how they bring it back to the meaning. Some how there is a meaning to it you know it’s like.

So, I try to make films like that. So, I get inspired by a lot of people like that you know and people that, I think the most, what I have learned the most from is just like you know the Creek and Seminole people I grew up with and even non-Indians from rural Oklahoma.

It’s all about being humble and remembering where you are from, always giving. It’s like I would hate to be one of those guys that moves off to LA and doesn’t know how to talk to people back home that I grew up with anymore, you know. So, I stay in Oklahoma just so I can try you know to be more rooted here I think.

Anyone else? I know y’all got so many questions. Y’all know Zahn, the bad guy in the film, he has got famous since we made this movie. He is the ‘Fargo’ season two on TV. He is also in ‘Longmire.’

I told him I would take all the credit for ‘Fargo’ season two cause he left this movie went straight to be in that movie. I was like, ‘I directed you. I got you ready for that role, got you in that space.’

But he was good to work with. He is a good guy. It is funny, he had not drank in like 12 years and he was on the street too before he was an actor.

But he hadn’t drank in 12 years and my cousin is in the film. He plays Fast Eddie and he put, we all got to the set and they were supposed to be drinking and my cousin and them were taking a drink of the liquor and it was like water and my cousin was like, ‘aww, man.’ So, somebody had some liquor and filled it up with liquor and you know.

My cousin, in one scene is sitting there taking a drink of it and Zahn who hadn’t had a drink, in character while we are rolling, thinks it’s water. He grabs it out of Eddie’s hand a takes a big old swig and he’s just holding it in his mouth. Then, I said, ‘cut’ and he spit it out and he’s like, ‘damn, 12 years of sobriety down the drain.’

He’s a good guy though, good to work with. He said his cousin was killed like that homeless on the streets in LA. Somebody killed him in his sleep.

Really I wanted to you know tell a story about that community in Tulsa cause it’s real and it’s there and you know I got to know them. Lot of them are in the film. Some of them I got to know and they struggle every day.

Just for instance, three of them have died since this movie has been filmed, you know. So, it wasn’t that long ago. So, you know it’s a hard life definitely and obviously there is alcoholism and stuff like that going on and drugs, but even without that it is hard.

That’s why I got Wotko, cause he is so hard living. He was so natural though. He had never acted in his life and it’s like he had been acting for 25 years or something.

Audience: You need to talk about Indian humor.

SH: Talk about Indian humor? Yeah, there’s a little bit of humor in this and I think, you know, Indians.

Audience: I don’t think white people understand us.

SH: He is all yelling, shaming these white people out in this screening. (laughs)

Audience: That’s why I am here.

SH: You know, it’s true though. I get, I have to talk a lot about Indian humor because the 1491s stuff that I do and whenever we do a show, I always tell the white people in the crowd, I say, ‘I am sorry that you don’t understand this humor, but it’s not our fault. It’s yours,’ (laughing).

Because Indian humor is smart, man and it’s funny and it’s its own thing you know. And if you don’t understand what it is and you don’t understand the rhythm of it, cause it is not like a punch line joke. I mean, we’re not like you know, it’s not like, ‘hey, here’s the joke.’ It’s like sometimes what’s not said. Sometimes it’s just a look at someone you know or whatever. It’s just funny.

Like you know, a moment where Mekko grabs that owl and turns it around you know it’s like it’s all dark and funny. Our humor is almost like, cause I think we use it as survival you know in hard times back in the day.

So, our humor, we know how to laugh in hard situations or dark situations and that’s what I wanted to show with the homeless people too.

When I started meeting them on the streets, that’s the first thing I noticed was how much fun they were having. They were cracking up all the time, you know and just laughing around. It wasn’t just sad and depressing. It was like they got along good and they were funny and they had fun.

It was funny, funny stuff and you know, part of Indian humor is teasing people. Wotko is just, that kind of humor comes out of him. You don’t have to tell him to do nothing. It just like comes out of him.

Q: Was Oakhern a fictional place?

SH: Yeah, I just wanted to make up a town name, Oakhern. So, I used two towns for the town of Oakhern.

One was Maud and that’s what you see at the end. So, Maud is still populated obviously, but they did kind of move. The town just kind of gave up on the old Main Street and like made a new Main Street right next to it. So, they just use that one. They don’t even use that old one anymore.

So, it looks like it is gone. So, I shot there and then there is a town called Picher, Oklahoma and that’s where I think there was like lead mining and zinc mining and it is just a really bad, like one of the worst in the nation environmental hazardous, make you sick. And so, they kind of cleaned the town out and so I shot there as well. That’s a creepy town too. It’s like weird to see a ghost own, like a literal ghost of a town.

And you know, I want to make a film that you know honored our kind of ceremonial stuff and our more traditional stuff and you know, I just made this Creek hymn film and I wanted to also kind of, you know, both of those things are part of me and wanted to give honor to that side of me too.

Because I think most people won’t admit it but more and more I feel like they are is you know that everyone of us have family that are either ceremonial or in Christian churches or both and I try to honor both sides like that.

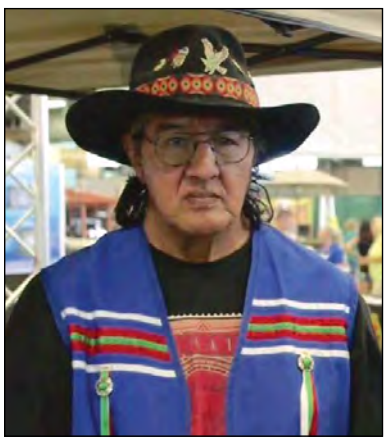
So, this film for me was more about traditional stuff and going back about how there is so much judgment to things people don’t know about. And just like our traditional medicine, you know our traditional medicine was here before anything.

And to not be able to honor that and we would rather go sit at IHS for 10 hours to get some Tylenol than even think about stuff that is out there growing that could help you with things you know.

And I just hope as a people we start thinking about that stuff more.

‘Mekko’ will be available on DVD later this year. For more information about Sterlin Harjo, visit: www.sterlinharjo.com.

JIMMY DEERE



KEIFER, Okla. — Jimmy A. Deere was born Nov. 6, 1948 in Okemah to Winey Deere Wesley and Jimmie Deere. He went to be with the Lord, March 19, 2016 at his home in Keifer surrounded by his wife and kids at the age of 67.

Jimmy graduated from Sequoyah School and went on to attend Haskell Poly Tech for one year where he learned carpentry. Jimmy was a lifelong craftsman and worked in construction, building houses most of his adult life. He was known nationwide for his beautiful craftsmanship in making the traditional Mvskoke ballsticks, which he always had a long line of orders for. He was a teacher to anyone who was willing to learn about his trade. Jimmy was a member of the Little Quartsarty Church and Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground. He was Heneha and speaker at Greenleaf where he was much honored to have his duties and took his job seriously. Jimmy traveled all over the country with Muscogee (Creek) Nation for demonstrations of the tribe's ceremonial ways. He was always asked to do presentations of his Mvskoke ways. He was taught by his mentor Tony Hill. He passed this tradition along by sharing what he had learned with many young men that had come into his life; hoping that they would take what he had to teach and continue to grow in our Native ways. Jimmy was highly respected in the Creek community and was always one to help others or just to be there if someone needed to talk about Creek traditions. He always influenced others to learn their language and carry on their traditions.

He was quoted saying, "Never let the fire burn out."

On behalf of the family, they would like to thank everyone for their love and support of Jimmy. The family also asks that you continue keeping Jimmy's teaching alive and to those that he taught, continue to honor what he taught you.

He was preceded in death by his: parents; brother, Charles 'Ceka' Deere and son, Jimmy Paroah Deere.

Survivors include his: wife, Suzetta Squire-Deere of the home in Kiefer; sister, Kizzie Roberts and family of Cromwell; daughters, Andrea Hernandez and husband, Oscar of Sasakwa, Lydia Withers and husband, Jon of Seminole, Rosanna Deere of Sasakwa, Josie Alberson and husband, Jeremy of Ada and Patricia Deere of the home in Keifer; son, Ceka Deere of the home in Keifer; 14 grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

He lived his life to love his family and they all knew he loved them greatly.

Pallbearers were: Chabon LeClair, Jon Withers, Jeremy Alberson, Jon Cheek, and the men of Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground.

Honorary bearers included: Michael Deere, Brandon Deere, Billy Alberson, Jacob Cole, Emmett Harrison, Jonas Carpitcher, Aeryk Deere, Woxie Deere, Elijah Withers, Justin Squire, Zack LeClair, Ahhole Cheek, Calvin LeClair, Marvin Squire, Rick Squire, Kenny Squire, John Squire, Donald Squire, Joseph Squire, Mike Squire and Chris Squire.

Flower girls were: Marissa Alberson, Savannah Alberson, Sierra Squire and Rebecca Squire. Dana Tiger read the obituary.

Funeral services for Jimmy A. Deere were set March 23 at the Little Quarsarty Church in Cromwell. Interment followed at the Little Quarsarty Cemetery also in Cromwell.

Services were under the direction of Parks Brothers Funeral Home in Okemah and officiated by Fred Lindsey and Wotko Long.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

Church Terms

ERKENVKV - Preacher
POFKETV - Horn
TEKVNV - Deacon
YVHIKETV - Song
COKV RAKKO - Bible
MEKUSVPKV CUKO- Church
HESAKETVMESE - God
YVHIKETV COKV - Songbook
HVLWE TVLOFV - Heaven
CVMHCAKV - Bell
MEKUSVPETV - Pray

S T C O K V R A K V Y V H I K E T V
S S E V V K H E S A K E T V M E S E
C V P M C V M H C A K V T K N K H O
T A O K E O Y V H I K E O T K Y V V
U O F K K K K E V K P V P E V V L V
H E K K V E U V K V A E T K O H W V
V V R C E E H S S K P V E V T I E V
E S L V V O K U V V U O K N E K T V
M R E W V M K E S P E V V T U E V T
S V K V E E H U R T K O N K E T L K
F P M E M T K C C K T V V E E V O U
E H O K N E V O A C E V C K E C F Y
V N M E M V E L K P N N F U E U V V
C O K V R A K K O F K O V O K K I E
V C R E K C H V V F P E A P S O E U

WILMA JACKSON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Wilma Fay Jackson, age 63, passed away March 23, 2016 at her residence in Okmulgee.

Wilma Fay (Francis) Jackson was born Jan. 5, 1953 to Samuel Francis and Mahala (Jackson) Francis in Eufaula where she resided most of her life and then moved to Oklahoma where she resided until the Lord called her home.

She attended Sequoyah Indian High School, Bacone College and Northeastern State University.

She received her bachelor's degree in nursing. She most recently worked as a LPN at Highland Park Nursing Home. Wilma was a member of Belvin Baptist Church for the past 20 years.

She liked crocheting and reading. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and her loving grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Mahala Francis and sister, Imogene Meeks.

She is survived by her: husband, Robert Jackson of Okmulgee; children, Christopher Michael Hill and his wife Amy of Okmulgee, Jeffrey Michael Hill of Muskogee, Jacquelene Michelle Hill, Jennifer Manessah Morgan and Justin Michael Hill of Okmulgee, Scott Lee Jackson of Tulsa, Carressa Lee Jackson and Matthew Wayne Jackson of Okmulgee; brothers, Eunah Marshall and his wife Annie of Eufaula, Thompson Francis of Stilwell; sister, Ellen Francis of Okmulgee; 20 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

Pallbearers were: Josiah Buckley, Tyler Hill, Chase Hill, Christian Hill, Chris Hill, Joseph Kelly, Kethan Harjo and Christian Harjo.

Visitation was set March 27 at Belvin Baptist Church followed by the wake service. A traditional funeral service was set March 28 at Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church in Eufaula. Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service and Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at: www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

Gospel singing set May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A gospel singing has been set 7 p.m., May 6 for Rufus Gould's birthday at Crosstown Pentencostal Church. 1206 W. 5th street in Okmulgee.

All are welcome to the event, which will feature concessions, the funds from which will go towards sending the youth to camp.

Spring Market set for May 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Loan Fund has set a Spring Market for May 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Claude Cox Omniplex outdoor pavilion in Okmulgee.

It will include Native American vendors, the Okmulgee County Farmer's Market and Jo Jo's BBQ.

To request transit offered for employees and Okmulgee elderly housing call Kogee Spanaird at: 918-732-7908.

Elder fundraiser lunch set May 14

WETUMPKA, Okla. — Thlopthlocco Tribal Town has set an lunch sale fundraiser for 11 a.m., May 14 at the Alabama Quassarty Community Building on Highway 27 northwest of Wetumka. Bingo starts at 12:30 p.m.

Indian taco sale set May 14

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church has set an Indian taco sale, where dinners will be $8 with a drink for 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., May 14 at the church, 8815 E. 101 St., Tulsa, OK and would like to thank attendees of the wild onion dinner in March.

Chilocco reunion set May 26-29

NEWKIRK, Okla. — A reunion for the Chilocco class of 1966 is set May 26-29 at the First Council Casino in Newkirk and the Chilocco campus.

To register call Emma Jean Falling at: 918-266-1626. For more information call Clarence Johnson at: 918-752-9512.

Tennis tournament set May 28-30

MINNEAPOLIS — The 2016 North American Indian Tennis Association Championships are set May 28-30 at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406. To enter by the May 23 deadline call Jerry Bales at: 918-633-6275..

MCN Scholarship pageant set June 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant has been set for June 4 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Ominplex in Okmulgee.

The doors open at 2:30 p.m. and the event starts at 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited and it will conclude with a reception.

MNN submission Deadlines

May 15 —May 6

June 1 — May 24

June 15 — June 7

July 1 — June 23

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 22

Aug. 15 — Aug. 8

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

May 15, 2016 "Ke Hvse" Mulberry Month

Vol. 46, Issue 10



CMN graduation photos — Pages 9-10

A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News



MCN PR

A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held April 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Legislation extending cabinet commissions passes during Council session

Two cabinet confirmations postponed indefinitely

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held April 30 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd gave a summary of his quarterly report, which was published at: http://tinyurl.com/h3xwv28.

He highlighted that the MCN Treasury Department issued 13,522 accounts payable checks down from 14,595 in the first quarter.

The total accounts payable was $20,009,104.94 down from $22,758,159.84.

Google dictionary defines accounts payable as, 'money owed by a company to its creditors.'

Travel authorizations were 157, down from 222.

Purchase orders were 947 down from 1,211.

Employees were 1,224 up from 1,221.

Payroll was $8,955,156.59 down from $11,179,566.28, which included an additional payday in December 2015.

The Administration Department reviewed, updated and/or refined enforcement on policy regarding inclement weather, travel, Internet, workplace clothing and sexual harassment.

Human Resources received 1,946 applications up from 909, opened and filled 57 positions down from 421, opened 41 positions up from 28 and conducted 94 background checks up from 42.

The Interior Affairs Department assumed all responsibilities for grants at MCN and applied for grants for the Morris Indian Farm Cooperative and Community Food Assessment, fiscal year 2016 Tribal Homeland Security, Urban and Non-Urban Homeless Veterans, Reintegration Program, Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program, Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition and the Okfuskee Community Traditional Food Bank and Youth Education Program among others.

Agri-business has 514 head of livestock and architectural designs for the Council House renovations are 98 percent complete.

Floyd said they hope the designs will be complete this month and that they will ap-

Council - 4

Fractured Finances: MCNDH budget increases 46 percent since 2013

Budget shows tribal funding increase over four budget periods

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In response to Muscogee (Creek) Nation legislation, which approved a $65.68 million loan to address the reported MCN Department of Health budget deficit, the 'Muscogee Nation News' requested interviews with MCN health and financial officials for clarification about information obtained through documents, meetings and interviews.

'MNN' was granted an interview with MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

The Public Relations Department requested a list of questions be sent for review prior to the interview.

Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger released a statement to the 'Okmulgee News Network' April 14, discussing the reported health deficit. The statement can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/zbal37n.

George Tiger addressed the reported deficit.

'I think the so called crisis is not as critical as some would like our citizens to believe.'

'MNN' requested copies of the fiscal year 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 comprehen-

Budget - 11

CLE offers legal, tribal education

Seminar combines contemporary and traditional perspectives

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The 14th annual Continuing Legal Education seminar was held April 28-29 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The event offers credit hours for Oklahoma legal professionals and gives them the opportunity to learn about the cultures, histories and current legal issues facing Native American people.

Organizer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler said CLE focuses on providing certification to bar associations for their continuing practices and provide attendees with current legal information about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and matters affecting Indian Country.

Also, new members of the MCN Bar Association were inducted during the first day.

The agenda contained a dozen sessions focusing on subjects such as Mvskoke history, the threat presented by false Indian tribes, in-

CLE - 2

Coming & Going



Joy Harjo-Sapulpa
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

TULSA, Okla. — My mother's mother used to dream long stories, stories that were the length of novels or a mini-series. Television wasn't invented yet and they were so poor they didn't even own a radio.

My grandmother's stories were the impetus to get the seven children to bed. They eagerly dove into their beds, pallets on the floor at bedtime, because they wanted the next episode. They wanted to hear more about what happened to the man who was tricked into going home with a beautiful woman who was really a monster.

When we'd visit my grandparent's one-room house near the Arkansas/Oklahoma border as children, our grandmother told us warning stories.

These were horrific tales of what would happen if we didn't behave, if we talked with strangers or didn't listen to her and climbed the caves that lined the river, which we always wanted to explore.

Coming - 3

Checotah affected by first storm of the season

EF-1 tornado, no injuries reported

Darren DeLaune
Reporter/MCN EMT member

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Of the April 26 storm system that stretched from Kansas down to Texas, reports indicate that Checotah was the hardest hit in Oklahoma.

The National Weather Service later determined that damage in the area was caused by an EF-1 tornado, which consists of winds from 86-110 mph.

Residents and authorities believe that the tornado touched down in the small town located within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction after 11 p.m.

No injuries were reported. Several buildings and houses were damaged along with uprooted trees.

One uprooted tree exposed a gas line that evening.

Oklahoma Gas & Electric were coordinating with MCN Arbor Care to address the situation.

Power lines and debris were also reported.

City of Checotah Fire Chief Greg Carmack led an incident command post set up at the Checotah Football Field where several fire departments from nearby communities, emergency management personnel, MCN Lighthorse Police and other agencies met to discuss the next steps for providing relief.

"We had mutual aid in and did assessment of the area," Carmack said. "Gas company, utility companies and everything is moving pretty well with the assessment."

Carmack expressed appreciation for collaborative efforts.

"I have to say thank you for everyone that helped us tonight," Carmack said. "All the departments and agencies worked well together to help us on the assessment of the damages."

Checotah Public Schools were closed April 27.

The MCN Natural Disaster Relief Program is available for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and can be reached through MCN Social Services toll free at: 1-800-482-1979 or by email at: socialservices@mcn-nsn.gov.

CLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Gary Fife/MNN
Shawnee Tribe Second Chief Ben Barnes gave a presentation April 28 during the Continuing Legal Education seminar at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

digenous cultural property claims and legal procedures affecting individual Native people.

Bigler said tribes have increasingly been able to exercise their legal rights but there are new directions that need to be explored.

"I think there's been a continuous support of the sovereignty and jurisdiction, but rather, I think, an increasing awareness of the need to assert ourselves in new forms, both nationally and internationally, so that we can protect the rights of the tribe overall," he said.

He said the legal community in Oklahoma by and large, remains deficient in knowledge regarding the intricacies of Native American law as well as its impact and implications.

"Mostly uninformed as to the history and status of tribes," Bigler said. "It is better than it was but it is still lacking in many instances."

He shared his wish that the conference would help address this.

"I hope that they take back some practical tips on how to better represent their clients, some ideas of where the Indian law might need to go," Bigler said. "Also information of where our laws derive from in a tribal sense, a Mvskoke Nation and history."

One session presented some background and history of traditional Mvskoke law and another subtitled, 'Their Threat and Tribal Responses' provided information on faux Indians.

Sam 'Bonnie' Deere presented the panel, 'Mvskoke Traditional Law' covering its place in today's legal world.

Deere is tvstvneke (war chief) of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground.

Deere said the point of his presentation was to remind or inform attendees of the difference between traditional and modern law.

"I was told that it's a 'human being' law. It's a natural law of who we are and that natural, that 'human being' law still exists today within our ceremonies.

"When we have people that are influenced by outside, whether it's drugs and alcohol or things like that, they come in there, then we have to start enforcing some of the laws that, or some of our rules that we have to go by. That's what we do at the ceremonial grounds," he said.

Deere said he also wanted to stress the how the two styles relate.

"The law that's going on in our ceremonial ground and the law that's going on in district court, I strongly believe that our ceremonial grounds supersede their law because we before their law, thought about existing," he said. "So, that's why I think it's important that they know who you truly represent."

He said the tribal government is doing a fairly good job of enforcing the laws they are charged to uphold while respecting traditional Mvskoke law.

"Number one, because law enforcement that comes out to our ceremonial ground, there's a lot of grassroots people that are law enforcement officers, officers that go and dance at our ceremonial grounds," Deere said. "Some of them are patrolling the grounds or watching the gate when people are coming in. I'm thankful for that."

Shawnee Tribe Second Chief Ben Barnes spoke about the problems created when non-Indians try to pass themselves off as legitimate tribal governments.

"To give you a scope of the economic problem, the federal government studied just 26 non-recognized tribes and the federal monies that were being wasted on them," he said. "In between the years 2007 and 2010, those 26 fake tribes received over a $100 million in federal monies that should have gone to real Indian people."

Barnes expressed personal anger about this and further disdain regarding their emulation of tribal ceremonies.

"It affected me personally because these people were pretending to be us, Shawnee people, the White Oak Shawnee people from the White Oak Ceremonial Ground," Barnes said.

He went into further detail.

"When these folks start stealing our ceremonies, creating these pageantries, these 'red-faced' mockeries for the public consumption of our holy ceremonies that only belong in that sacred place, that really rankles and makes me angry," Barnes said.

Barnes said these 'wannabe' Indians are filling in geographical and cultural gaps where genuine tribes and Native Americans may not have a presence in the modern world.

"In the vacuum of our absence from our 'removed' area, in areas where there are no federally recognized tribes, the only contact that the general public has with Native peoples, is through the media," he said. "So they see these stereotypes, these mythologies of what Indians are, what they think we're supposed to be, that perpetuates that."

For more information about the MCN Bar Association, visit: www.creeksupremecourt.com/index.php/bar-assoc.

"In between the years 2007 and 2010, those 26 fake tribes received over a $100 million in federal monies that should have gone to real Indian people."

— Shawnee Tribe Second Chief Ben Barnes

Mvskoke Media receives award for independent press act



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Media, the media arm of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, received the 2016 Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Carter Bradley First Amendment Award April 30 at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

Mvskoke Media Interim Manager Jason Salsman said the outlet is honored to receive the award.

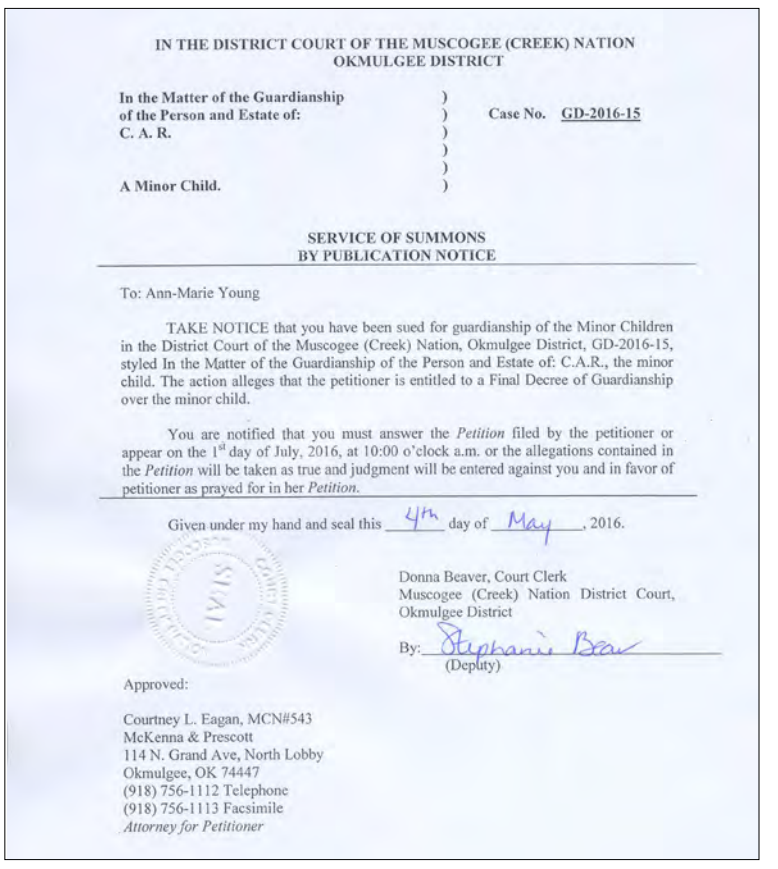
"The passage of an Independent Press Act for the fourth largest tribe in America is a pronounced indicator that Native American citizens are getting serious about the type of relationship they have with their respective governments," Salsman said. "The message is loud and clear, transparency is a mandate. To be a part of something that will leave such a legacy and make such an impact for generations to come is both gratifying and humbling."

Mvskoke Media was nominated for the award for its role in the passage of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Independent Press Act in 2015, establishing the entity as a tribal-funded, independent agency in order to report the Nation's news and activities objectively without interference or bias.

The outlet previously reported through the organizational structure to the Nation's executive branch.

Carl Bernstein of the 'Woodward and Bernstein' byline who broke the Watergate scandal was the keynote speaker for the OKSPJ event.

Mvskoke Media consists of a bi-monthly newspaper, 'Muscogee Nation News,' weekly TV and radio shows, 'Native News Today' and 'Mvskoke Radio,' as well as a graphics and printing division.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: C. A. R., A Minor Child. Case No. GD-2016-15

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Ann-Marie Young

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-15, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: C.A.R., the minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 1st day of July, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Stephanie Bear (Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association



MNN File Photo

DeLaune's Corner: Go ahead, make my night.

Compassion, what a great word, action

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — If you read my column, you know that a majority of my inspiration to write on a particular subject comes from something else. This one is no different.

Everyone knows that I participate in a Latin style of dancing called Bachata. I talk about it all the time. During one of the socials at the place I go to, Tulsalseros Salsa Dance Studio, I was sitting out from dancing when I noticed a young lady who was sitting out too.

I think I was waiting on music to dance bachata.

I commonly enjoy sitting out on anything every once in a while to just observe or, putting it bluntly, people watch. Who knows why, it is what I do.

Going back to the young lady, after a while I got up to dance again and through a series of songs, I noticed, she was not dancing at all. I was not sure if she chose not to dance or no one was asking her or maybe, she did not know bachata or salsa.

This started to bother me and here's why.

At the studio, I always hear the phrase, 'just dance.' To me, that means go out, have fun, enjoy life and you can do it through dancing. When I saw her not dancing, I started to worry because chances are; she can get discouraged and may never want to participate again (I worry a lot…well laugh).

So after a little bit of time I felt, she needed to dance. She needed to enjoy what everyone else was.

> **"So after a little bit of time I felt, she needed to dance. She needed to enjoy what everyone else was."**
>
> **— Darren DeLaune**

So I asked and thank goodness, she said she wanted to dance. So we went out and I discovered that she is amazing at it. We danced for two songs and the whole time I noticed a huge smile on her face, which was radiating.

Everyone that saw her also started smiling, including myself.

When I look back, it occurred to me that it is not hard to show compassion. As a matter of fact, it is very noble to involve someone who may feel left out.

In dancing, like life, people can feel left out of certain things. Sure they want to try but maybe they need that push or encouragement to get going.

If they say no, you made the attempt to involve them and that is what matters.

So let that be your mission.

After we finished, I received a hug from her and she told me that I made her night. This was a great compliment from the young lady. I remembered her smile became infectious to everyone close to her. When they saw her happy and dancing, they began to smile.

All I did was ask her to dance.

She said I made her night but it was the other way around. She was the one who made mine.

View a short biography for Darren DeLaune and other Mvskoke Media staff at:

www.mvskokemedia.com.

Coming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We sometimes crossed the story-line and sometimes did go into those caves. Despite this, her stories haunted us and probably even saved our lives. Her stories were animated with breath and expression. They took on life and lived in us.

These days, we see a proliferation of stories on our television and computer screens. They flicker by and through us, without depth and with so much violence in them, whether they are sitcom or police dramas or one of the many 24-hour news channel story feeds.

These stories are for the most part, without substance and have the effect of making us hungry for something deeper. Their effect is like candy or ice cream. So we watch more, growing an emptiness. We are left without a sense of mystery and meaning in the world.

These cheap and easy stories are sandwiched by pharmaceutical drug ads and ads for processed foods that mess with your mood so you think you need pharmaceutical drugs.

What we need is human connection, a sense of our own stories. How we related to each other and to the profound and mysterious world(s) within which we live.

And we need to remember that words that create stories are powerful, and that as we speak to ourselves and others and act within our families and communities, we are dynamically making a story. What we say and do has a profound effect on the present and the future.

We are in this story together and each of our parts utterly matters:

Once the world was perfect and we were happy in that world.

Then we took it for granted. Discontent began a small rumble in the earthly mind.

Then Doubt pushed through with its spiked head.

And once Doubt ruptured the web,

All manner of demon thoughts

Jumped through--

We destroyed the world we had been given

For inspiration, for life--

Each stone of jealousy, each stone

Of fear, greed, envy and hatred, put out the light.

No one was without a stone in his or her hand.

There we were,

Right back where we had started.

We were bumping into each other

In the dark.

And now we had no place to live, since we didn't know How to live with each other.

Then one of the stumbling ones took pity on another And shared a blanket.

A spark of kindness made a light.

The light made an opening in the darkness.

Everyone worked together to make a ladder.

A Wind Clan person climbed out first into the next world.

And then the other clans, the children of those clans, their children,

And their children, all the way through time--

To now, into this morning light to you.

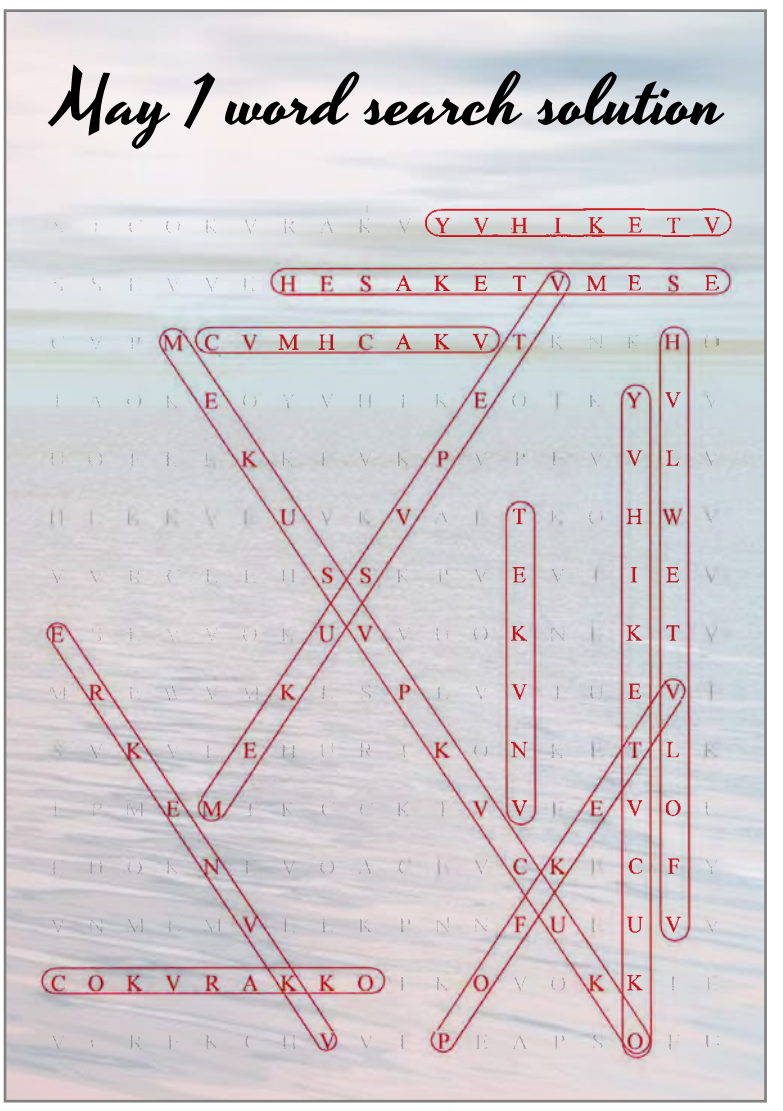
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NativeVision™
20th Annual Sports & Life Skills Camp
June 9th-11th, 2016
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
&
Okmulgee High School
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

SPORTS & AGE GROUPS

Lacrosse 7-18
Soccer 7-18
Running 9-18
Volleyball 11-18
Basketball 11-18
Football 12-18

FREE EVENT
*** TRANSPORTATION NOT PROVIDED***
APPLICATIONS DUE Monday, June 6th
Register Online: www.nativevision.org
OR
Email nativevisioncamp@mcn-nsn.gov for a copy of the application
Questions contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Center & Archives Office
(918)549-2434



Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proach the Council afterwards for the next step.

The Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee was set to address a $1,873,000 appropriation to fund phase one of this project during their May 10 meeting.

The MCN Children and Family Services Administration (CFSA) reported that Indian Child Welfare, which handles foster care and adoption had 261 intakes and referrals up from 241; 160 new cases assigned, down from 168 and 48 out-of-state referrals up from 36.

The Social Security Assistance Program reported, 103 disability, 20 retirement, one post-entitlement and two survivor claims worked. They had 41 approvals, up from 18 and 52 denials, down from 55.

The Office of Child Care had 636 active clients for services and a total enrollment of 715, down from 725.

The Housing Department processed applications on 178 emergency repairs, up from 121; 285 for homeownership, up from 155 and 18 for the Elder Subsidy Program.

The Construction Department received work orders on eight Mutual Households, 13 for lease with option to purchase, 101 for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act units, 36 for the rental units and 165 for privately owned homes for a total of 323 with 45 completed.

The MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) expended $1,198,321 in contract health up from $997,231.41.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) website defines this as, health services provided at the expense of IHS from public or private medical or hospital facilities other than those of the service.

The Citizenship Office provided services to 11,653, replaced 2,270 citizenship cards and 284 Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) as well as issued 541 new citizenship cards and 727 new CDIB cards. The total MCN enrollment as of March 31 is 80,493.

The Election Board reported for the first quarter there are 1,853 absentee voters, 3,104 precinct voters for a total of 4,957 for the general election. Another column named 'Total Voters' was unexplained and Mvskoke Media reached out to the board for an explanation the afternoon of May 4 and did not receive one as of press time.

The total number of registered voters is 17,162.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• **TR 16-044 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a foster care agreement between MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) for the purpose of foster care services for Native American children. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The agreement will allow MCN CFSA to coordinate with OKDHS, which will help CFSA look out for Muscogee (Creek) children in accordance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

• **TR 16-046 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement between MCN and the Wagoner Hospital Authority, an Oklahoma Public Trust, DBA Wagoner Community Hospital for MCNDH. Rep. Johnnie Green sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

According to www.thefreedictionary.com, a patient transfer agreement is, 'a written hospital agreement between two healthcare institutions for the transfer of patients from one to another and the orderly exchange of pertinent clinical information on the patients transferred.'

• **TR 16-047 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement between MCN and St. John Medical Center Inc. for MCNDH. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

MCNDH seeks the ability to transfer stroke patients to the hospital so they can utilize its stroke center.

• **TR 16-048 Confirming the nomination of Alvin Bucktrot to serve as the secretary of housing for the MCN Housing Department. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely 14-0.**

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd nominated Bucktrot for approval.

Rep. Darrell Proctor made the motion to postpone indefinitely. The 'Muscogee Nation News' (MNN) called him the afternoon of May 3 for an explanation and did not reach him as of press time.

'MNN' was able to reach Rep. Randall Hicks who seconded the motion and he answered, "no comment at this time" after consulting with Council Speaker Lucian Tiger.

• **TR 16-049 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) for the MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office (VASO). Rep. Rufus Scott sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

This agreement allows VASO to receive Training, Responsibility, Involvement and Preparation claims handling training from ODVA.

• **TR 16-050 Confirming the nomination of Gregory Anderson to serve as the secretary of the MCN Education and Training Department (E&T). Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

Mvksoke Media reached out to MCN Public Relations May 5 for an interview with Anderson .

Tribal law requires legislative confirmation for this position and Floyd nominated Anderson for approval.

According to Anderson's LinkedIn profile, he has been chief of staff for the Bureau of Indian Education, a member of the National and Oklahoma Advisory Councils of Indian Education as well as superintendent of the Eufaula Dormitory.

• **TR 16-051 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the Alabama Quassarte, Kialegee and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns for the method of allocation for the MCN proportional share of funding for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds and the Indian Housing Block Grant. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

Since the tribal towns are recognized as their own governments with their own citizens within MCN, HUD has determined that with all parties' permission, the best way to prevent an overlap in services is to split the funding through enrollment, where the tribal towns receive money based on double their enrollment and MCN receive the remaining portion.

• **TR 16-052 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCNDH and Okfuskee County for the establishment of an alternate care site in the event of a mass medical emergency or disaster. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

If such an event renders the Creek Nation Community Hospital inoperable, it has been determined that the Okfuskee County Fair Barn has the infrastructure and equipment needed for an alternative care site.

• **TR 16-053 Confirming the nomination of Kathryn Guthrie as the controller for MCN. Rep. David Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 14-0.**

Hill made the motion to postpone indefinitely. The 'MNN' called him the afternoon of May 3 for an explanation and did not reach him as of press time.

'MNN' reached Barnett who seconded the motion, and she referred back to Hill.

"I seconded him because he is my counterpart for Creek District and I was backing him up," she said.

Barnett went on to explain her understanding of the situation.

"Kathy, I don't think she ever intended to do the job permanently so we thought that it would be better to defer the nominations until they could get permanent people in there," she said. "I think she was just going to be in there until they could get someone else in. And she was willing to do that and step up."

Barnett then referred to NCA 16-072, a bill she sponsored that was addressed during the same meeting.

See more under NCA 16-072.

• **TR 16-054 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a release of all claims between MCN and Federated Mutual Insurance Company. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

An entrance sign at the MCNDH Koweta clinic suffered property damage during a motorist collision and this legislation would authorize the department to take an offered $2,200 settlement.

• **TR 16-055 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for federal funding through the Tiger Discretionary Grant to fund a regional bridge reconstruction project. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) has worked with county commissioners in the MCN jurisdiction to identify bridges for repair through this grant and would prepare the plans, specifications, estimates and environmental assessments for each project as well as manage construction on them.

• **TR 16-056 Authorizing the MCN Fleet Management Department to utilize the state contractor buying cooperative when purchasing vehicles for use by MCN. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The cooperative would allow the department to purchase vehicles through competitive bidding, which consistently results in lower prices.

• **TR 16-057 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a school rental request with Okmulgee Public School. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

This would allow the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department to use Harmon Field and other school areas to hold the Junior Olympics in June.

• **TR 16-058 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an extension of the incoming loan agreement with the National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center for the purpose of completing assessment of Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects for reunification with Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects curated at the Southeast Archeological Center. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

Remains and objects discovered at Ocmulgee National Monument were repatriated by MCN from the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History and loaned to the archeological center to determine if they match with other remains and objects and to reunify them if they do.

An extension of the loan was deemed necessary to complete the assessment on this.

• **TR 16-059 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with the Okmulgee Lion's Club for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

As an act of support for the club, the legislation would authorize their use of the land and waive the surety bond and rental fee for it.

• **TR 16-060 Amending TR 10-079 (Establishing a Tribal Food and Fitness Policy Council). Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The legislation would change the organization, comprised of personnel from MCNDH; IHS; the legislative, executive and judicial branches and the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative as well as farmers/ranchers, to the Tribal Wellness Council and add a focus on heath and financial stability issues as well as food and fitness.

• **TR 16-062 Authorizing the execution of FY 2016 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) certifications and assurances. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

MCN TTP wishes to apply for FTA funding and must submit these certifications and assurances to do so.

• **TR 16-063 Requesting the state of Georgia governor to veto proposed transportation legislation that would create undue potential to adversely impact Muscogee (Creek) historical/environmental preservation interests in Georgia. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely 14-0.**

Yahola said during the meeting that Gov. Nathan Deal had already signed the legislation known as Senate Bill 346.

SB 346 loosens inspection requirements under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act aimed at protecting cultural and historical sites potentially affected by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) projects.

Under SB 346, GDOT still has to follow federal laws that require such studies and notice to tribes whose resources might be affected on projects using federal funds, land or permits.

However, it would waive state inspection laws on projects using state funds that cost under $100 million.

Read more about the legislation and further actions that might be considered by MCN starting on page one of the May 1 'MNN' edition or at: http://tinyurl.com/zr-75f9c.

• **TR 16-064 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a payment processing agreement between MCN and PayNearMe MT Inc. for the purpose of accepting payments for the MCN Childcare Enforcement Department. Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The company offers the necessary services and convenient locations for users to make these payments.

• **TR 16-065 Confirming the nomination of Gayla Waller to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB). Reps. Robert Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Rep. Del Beaver voting against**

Council - 5

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

it.

GOAB positions require legislative confirmation per MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA).

According to Waller's LinkedIn profile, she has been an auditor for the Texas State Comptroller, chairperson of the River Spirit Oversight Committee, administrative assistant at the MCN Tax Commission and legal secretary for the MCN Office of the Attorney General.

Rep. Del Beaver declined to comment on his vote against the confirmation, citing privacy concerns regarding personnel.

Rep. Del Beaver went on to say that he had received information from other individuals regarding Waller.

"On a personnel issue like that, it can't be personal and Gayla did have a good resume. She's qualified but there were just some issues, people that I had talked to had some concerns about her and that's why I voted no," he said.

• **TR 16-066 Authorizing GOAB to execute a master subscription agreement with Duetto Research Inc. for MCN gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

Per MCNCA, GOAB must have approval from the Council for contracts over one year.

According to the Duetto website, they provide hotel room service software, 'to optimize profit and guest loyalty.'

• **NCA 16-035 Amending MCNCA Title 5, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1, titled, 'Grant Programs for Churches and Ceremonial Grounds.' Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

This amendment adds a new subsection, which allows Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are members of a traditional churches or ceremonial grounds to apply for a one -time grant up to $7,000 to fund maintenance, repairs or expansion for their facilities and gives requirements and restrictions for the grant as well as an exception process for these.

• **NCA 16-045 Authorizing a $93,847 appropriation to fund the costs associated with constructing a new gym floor for the multi-purpose building (Mvskoke Dome). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely 14-0.**

The floor would allow MCN to host sanctioned athletic events and provide a more quality base surface for the building to make it more sanitary and easy to clean as well as enhance recreational activities.

The bill failed to receive a second motion for a full vote during the March 17 regular session.

During the March 8 joint meeting of the Council Health, Education and Welfare, and Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committees, Jennings said he could not support funding for this project due to a budget deficit at MCNDH.

The monies would come from the capitol improvement fund.

• **NCA 16-046 Repealing MCNCA Title 18, Subsection 2-104, titled 'Vocational Training: Tribal Grants' and Subsection 2-105, titled, 'Vocational Training: Incentive Grants' and replacing it with a new MCNCA Title 18, Subsection 2-104, titled 'Vocational Training: Tribal Grants' and Subsection 2-105, titled, 'Vocational Training: Incentive Grants.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The legislation states that these grants have not increased since 2006 and tuition has increased by more than 10 percent along with other fees since MCNCA was updated in 2008.

It provides new grants along with the requirements to obtain them.

• **NCA 16-047 Amending MCNCA Title 18, Subsection 2-501, titled, 'Establishment of the Post-Graduate Education and Scholarship Revolving Fund.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

www.businessdictionary.com defines a revolving fund as, 'an account established to finance a continuing cycle of operations through amounts received.'

The amendment updates this subsection to reflect current and more specific terminology in regards to financial assistance for standardized testing offered to citizens through the fund.

It also removes language designating the secretary of MCN E&T as the sole body of approval for this assistance.

It adds an education committee who, along with the E&T secretary will set guidelines and requirements for this assistance.

• **NCA 16-048 Authorizing a $113,000 supplemental appropriation to the post-graduate education and scholarship revolving fund. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

This appropriation will replenish the revolving fund mentioned in the previous legislation.

• **NCA 16-049 Authorizing a $50,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Social Services Department FY 2016 budget for medical travel assistance. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The department requested more funds in response to a demand increase with growing citizen base for the medical travel assistance program.

The program offers assistance for eligible citizens who need to travel more than 25 miles for medical treatment.

• **NCA 16-050 Authorizing a $400 special appropriation for a Muscogee (Creek) citizen to attend and participate in the U.S. Transplant Games. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dawn Dennison DeVorse is a kidney recipient and requested financial assistance for travelling to compete in the U.S. Transplant Games.

• **NCA 16-051 Authorizing a $54,954 appropriation for the Department of Administration – Office of Self-Governance for the remainder of FY 2016. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The primary job of this office is to ensure MCN operations are in compliance with federal regulations.

Oversight of this office was under the chief of staff up to 2015 and that position was not continued under the new administration.

The office will now be placed under the Administration Department and requires funding for the rest of the fiscal year.

• **NCA 16-052 Amending MCNCA Title 6, Chapter 1, Subsection 1-811(A) titled, 'Placement Preferences.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The legislation changes the descending ordered list of preferred placement for Muscogee (Creek) children in need of foster care and adoption to better comply with ICWA.

According to the National Indian Child Welfare Association, ICWA was passed to keep American Indian children with American Indian families and was in response to the alarmingly high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies.

• **NCA 16-053 Amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 2, Subsection 2-220, titled, 'Fleet Management Revolving Fund Account.' Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

Through the legislation, money generated by the department will be deposited into the fund rather than the department operating budget.

• **NCA 16-054 Authorizing a $165,570.13 appropriation for renovations to the parking lot and adjacent sidewalks of the building acquired for the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association (OCMA) located in Oklahoma City. Randolph and Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

OCMA requested the funds to update their building and parking lot to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

• **NCA 16-055 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to Okemah Summer Kids Café. Jack, and Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The café feeds children over the summer and 120 of the 350 who were enrolled in 2015 were Muscogee (Creek). They are looking to expand by including a literacy component.

• **NCA 16-056 Authorizing a $19,825 to the MCN E&T for start up costs of the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) Grant. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

MCN entered into an agreement with the Tribal Education Departments National Association (TEDNA) and Bristow Public Schools to apply for the grant.

TEDNA received it from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and is entering into another agreement to have MCN E&T administer the grant through and education specialist.

According to the USDE website, 'NYCP is centered on the goal of ensuring that Indian students are prepared for college and careers by promoting partnerships in American Indian and Alaska Native tribal communities.'

• **NCA 16-057 Authorizing a $10,000 donation to the American Diabetes Association. Reps. Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere, Lucian Tiger, Jennings, Barnett, Jack, Jones, Scott and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The donation would go towards sponsoring the association's local chapter for their annual Tour de Cure fundraising cycling event.

• **NCA 16-058 Authorizing a $750 donation to the Cherokee Adult Choir (CAC). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

CAC has three Muscogee (Creek) members and seeks funding for travel to perform at the 2016 United Methodist Churches (UMC) General Conference in Portland, Ore.

• **NCA 16-059 Authorizing a $10,800 donation to assist the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference to host the 2016 Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the UMC. Reps. Pete Beaver, Deere, Hufft, Greene and Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0-1 with Barnett abstaining.**

The legislation states that MCN supports the tradition and beliefs of citizens.

• **NCA 16-060 Amending NCA 15-238 (Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 9, titled, 'Special Appropriations Guidelines' and creating a new Chapter 13, titled 'Mvskoke Youth Opportunity Grant.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The legislation would increase the annual amount appropriated to fund the grant from $60,000 to $130,000 and cites a need to keep up with the number of youth seeking assistance for educational and extra curricular activities.

• **NCA 16-062 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

According to the legislation, this donation would go towards Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brenda Golden who is running for the Oklahoma House District 16 seat.

• **NCA 16-072 Amending NCA 13-045 (Clarifying commissions to fill vacancies and providing structure and guidelines). Reps. Pete Beaver, Del Beaver, Proctor, Barnett, Deere, Greene, Hicks, Hill, Hufft, Jack, Jones, Jennings, Scott, Randolph, Tiger and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

Article 5, Section 2(c) of the MCN Constitution allows the principal chief to fill vacancies in his cabinet positions, which require Council confirmation and have not yet been confirmed, through commissions expiring at the beginning of the next Council session.

The code states that commissions expire as such to preserve the balance of power intended by the confirmation process and to ensure that commissions are not used as a substitution for this, limitations on the timetable allowed for recomissioning is needed.

The amendment changes the period allowable to recommission the same individual for a cabinet position from three to six Council sessions stating that 180 days should be ample time for full confirmation and that the Council will not recognize any individual commissioned past this period.

Jones was absent.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled May 21. The Council rescheduled the June regular session to June 18.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: http://www.mcnnc.com, and MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

2016

№42

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Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
6:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 10-12
8:00 AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_**ADULT**
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
8:00 Tennis Tournament—Hawthorne Park,
1237 N. Okmulgee Avenue, Okmulgee

SUNDAY, JUNE 19
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
5:00PM Living Legends—Mvskoke Dome
6:30PM Stomp Dance

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
8:00AM Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
11AM-5PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 25
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_**YOUTH**
—Mvskoke Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_**YOUTH**
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
9AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Mike Berryhill Memorial Bow Shoot_**ADULT**
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
3-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mvskoke Dome
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 26
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament

All events occur at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted.

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ALL INDIAN RODEO
2016
BAREBACK RIDING | BARREL RACING | TEAM ROPING
BULL RIDING | CALF ROPING | LADIES' BREAKAWAY ROPING
STEER WRESTLING | SADDLE BRONC
BOB ARRINGTON RODEO ARENA @ THE CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX
6:00 PM June 24 & 25
OKMULGEE, OK
SLACK June 24 & 25, 8:00 AM
BIG HORN RODEO CO. stock contractor
$5,000 ADDED MONEY in each of the 8 MAJOR EVENTS
$10,000 TEAM ROPING
Entries for 8 Major Events
Must have proof of tribal membership/descendancy.
Must have INFR card or permit before the entry date.
Cards may be purchased at www.infr.org.
ENTRY 605.374.7754 Mid West Rodeo Entries
June 13, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CST)
ENTRY FEE: $100 + fees
Late entries: June 14, 2:00-5:00 PM (CST) $25 Late Fee
CALL BACKS/Trades: June 15, 2 PM-5 PM (CST) $10 Trade Fee
JR. & SR. EVENTS run during slack | one go round
ADDED MONEY: $300 | $600 SR. Team Roping
Jr. Events-15 & under
Breakaway Roping
Barrel Racing
Bull Riding
ENTRY FEE: $50
Sr. Events-50 & over
Breakaway Roping
Team Roping
ENTRY FEE: $75
SPECIAL EVENTS
PeeWee Barrels | Entry Fee $25
Mutton Bustin' | Entry Fee $25
ADDED MONEY: $300
ENTRY for SPECIAL EVENTS ONLY, eMail...
subject line: Okmulgee Rodeo
to region8rodeo@yahoo.com
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Tourism and Recreation purchases new equipment for Dome

Upgrade made to keep up with demand

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department closed the Mvskoke Dome weight room April 18 to bring in new exercise equipment.

"For our citizens, we are getting new fitness equipment," TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson said.

Johnson said he wanted to get the old equipment out and the new advanced machines in as soon as possible.

"So I was calling all hands on deck so my staff can help get everything ready for the next day," Johnson said.

Johnson said attendance has grown to 1,000 people per week since the Dome reopened after structural renovations were done for safety reasons.

He feels that the equipment upgrade is needed to keep up with demand.

"It is a blessing and a curse," Johnson said. "We had to shut down the weight room to get the new equipment in and ready for everyone."

He said the equipment gets wear and tear like any other machines and can be repaired a limited number of times.

"It is showing that our equipment is being used on a regular basis," Johnson said. "I feel that our citizens need to be rewarded because they are putting in the work to live a healthy life and get in the fitness room and workout."

Johnson said the new machines will be more durable and they wanted to get away from the frequent maintenance required with the old ones.

"The manufacturer that we are going through has been around for a long time," Johnson said. "With minimal maintenance problems and we want to offer nothing but the best for our citizens and our employees."

He said the old equipment was traded in to help pay for the new, which was financed out of the department budget. For more information about the financing, Johnson asked citizens to call the main line below and ask for him.

"Our manufacturer is using our old equipment as a trade in value for the upgrade," Johnson said. "So it helped in the purchasing of the new equipment."

TR also offers the fitness classes Creek Fit and Walking Strong.

Creek Fit is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1-2 p.m. Walking Strong is held from 12-1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Muscogee (Creek) or any citizen of a federally recognized tribe as well as Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees may use the Dome for free and will be asked for the appropriate ID to verify these.

For more information call TR at: 918-732-7990.

CMN holds public speaking class for students

Course helps participants get, excel in jobs

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — To be good at interviews and public speaking you have to start somewhere, whether it is a small group or a full classroom.

The Introduction to Speech Communications course at the College of the Muscogee Nation offers this opportunity. Students are expected to speak in front of both their peers and professionals who use this skill for a living.

CMN Academic Core Instructor Rita Courtwright said she has the students choose topics and present on them using what they are taught during the class.

Courtwright believes speech is an important skill.

"In life, you need to be persuasive, especially from leaving college and going into the real world," Courtwright said. "If you are interviewing for a job, they are not only going to look at experience but you need to persuade them to look at you over the other candidates."

Courtwright said persuasive speaking helps build self-confidence.

"This is a good experience for the kids that are taking this class," Courtwright said. "It helps them to take a stand in what they believe in and have that confidence to back up what they are saying."

Students, Garrick McCrary and James Newman feel this goal has been achieved with them.

"This class has helped me with my fear of public speaking," McCrary said. "I can get up there now and speak instead of waiting to be the last person to talk to everyone."

Newman said the class will help him in his chosen profession.

"This class has helped me fine-tune certain things when it comes to public speaking," Newman said. "I feel I can do it better than what I use to do when I spoke to a group of people."

McCrary admitted he still gets nervous in front of new crowds but feels better now that he knows how to work through it.



MCN PR

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd (L) and Second Chief Louis Hicks (R) sit with children April 12 while observing the Week of the Young Child, which was coordinated by MCN Head Start and the MCN Office of Child Care.

Nation celebrates Week of the Young Child

Head Start, Child Care raise awareness of mission

Amanda Rutland
Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care and MCN Head Start centers came together April 12 to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, which began April 11.

The celebration started with a parade in downtown Okmulgee where multiple MCN child care facilities and Head Start centers were represented.

Afterwards, a fun fair was held at the MCN Tribal Complex complete with inflatables, hot dogs and pony rides.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children website, 'The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.'

MCN Wetumka Head Start co-teacher Angela Sleet said they celebrate WYC annually with events like the trike-a-thon, Little Olympics and participation in the parade.

"(The children) like to get recognition and they like it," Sleet said. "It is really just celebrating our children because they are our future and that's what it is all about."

MCN Office of Child Care Director Barbara O'Neal said MCN has observed WYC for about 15 years.

"This year's theme is 'Celebrating our Youngest Learners' and this is what NAEYC has started out doing is knowing that it takes a takes a lot of people, families, providers, community to service our children on their needs and what they need to accomplish their goals as they get older," O'Neal said.

On early childhood education, O'Neal said children have different learning styles just as adults do.

"A lot of children, they're movers and shakes so we have to do a lot of music and movement with them, while others are gladly to sit down and learn, you know just by talking to (them)," O'Neal said.

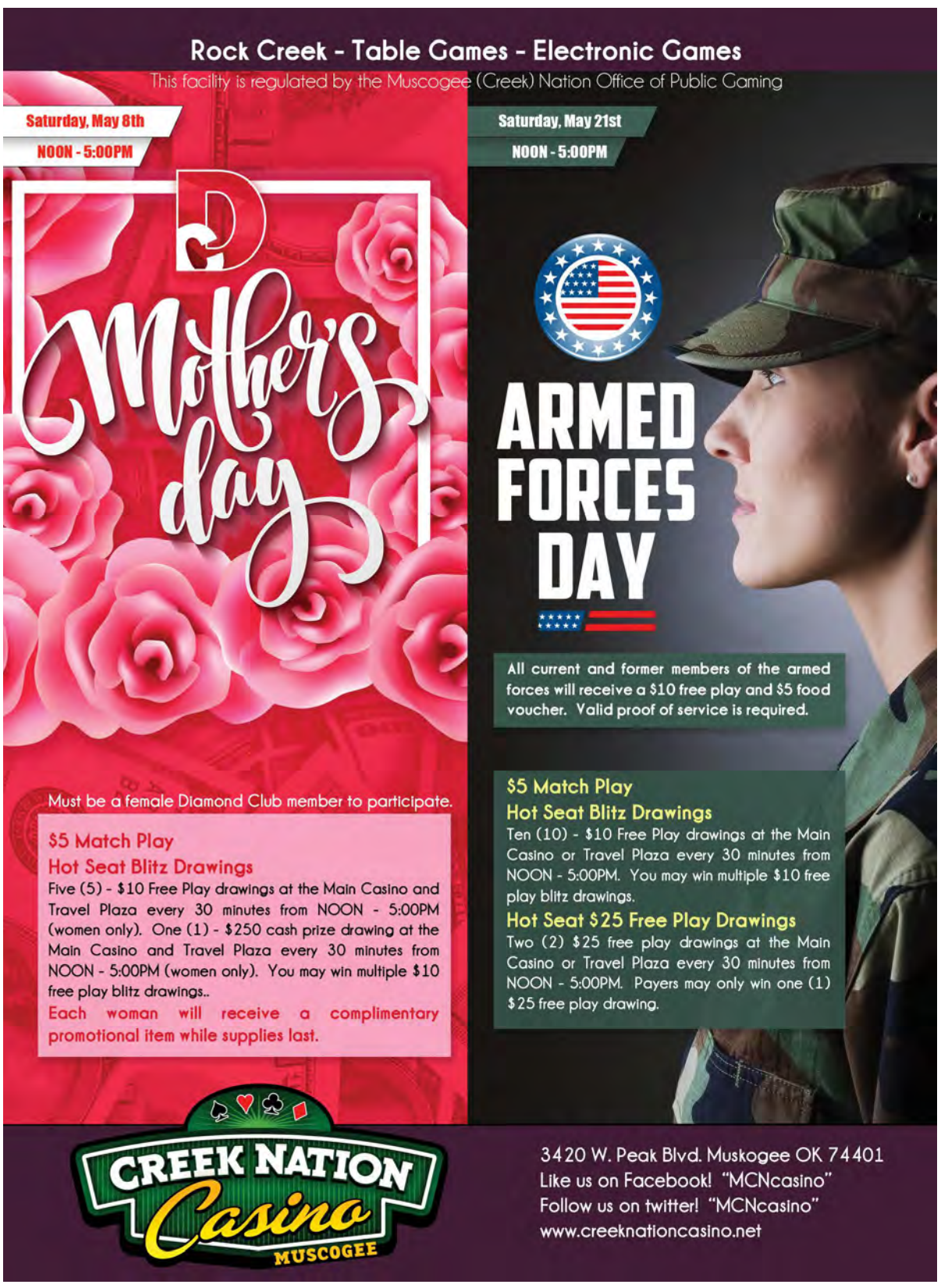
O'Neal said a lot of people think they are babysitters, but in order to better meet the needs of the children; the teachers attend college for early childhood education.

"We start teaching, singing to them, talking our language to them and as they get older and reach three or four-years-old, some go to public preschool, some go to Head Start, but we started that learning as early as six weeks, but a lot of people see us as child care and not an educational program," O'Neal said.

The MCN Office of Child Care also meets children's needs by providing financial subsidy, putting families in touch with needed resources and providing family tribal homes.

"We also provide what we call family tribal homes. These are grandparents, aunties, uncles that care for their children and we help them as far as being providers," O'Neal said. "So, we pay them to take care of their families."

For more information about the MCN Child Development Centers, call: 918-732-7680.

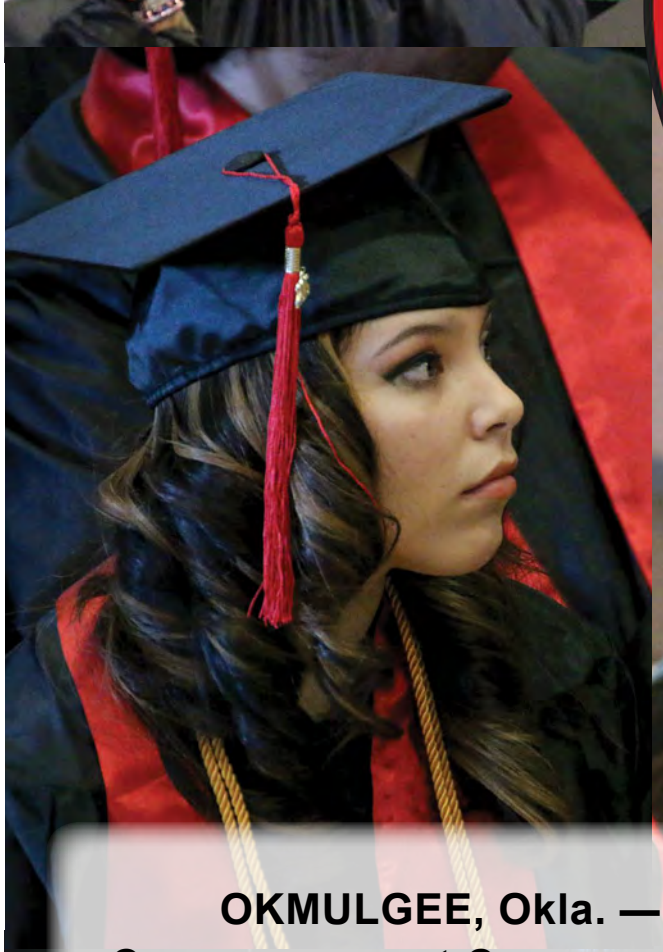


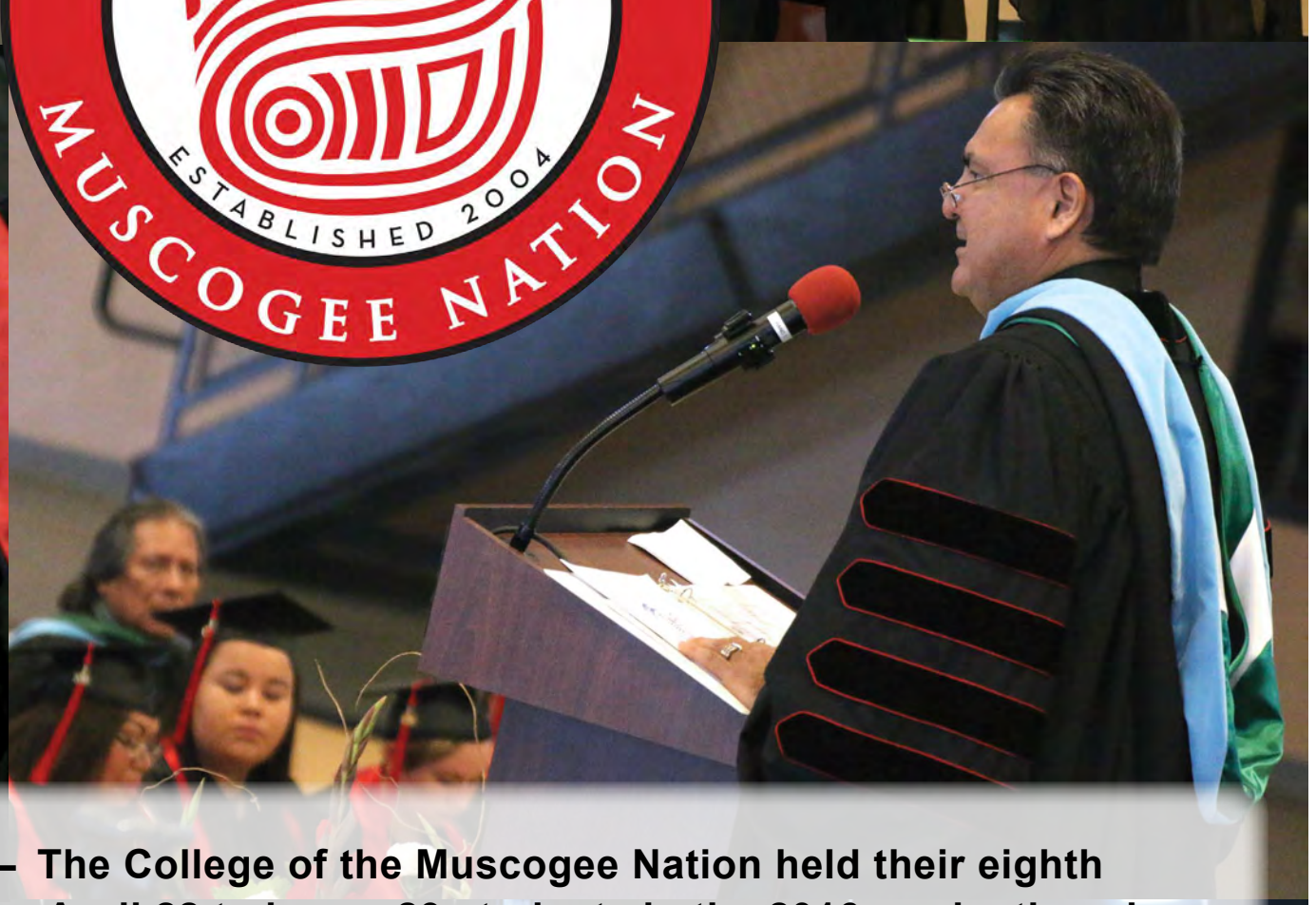












OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation held their eighth Commencement Ceremony April 22 to honor 29 students in the 2016 graduating class at Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Photos by: Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist




CMN
REGENT
CMN




CREEK
CMN
CMN


College Of The
Muscogee Nation





Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sive annual budgets for the health department.

'MNN' makes no warranties or representations about the following review of the budgets, and has made them available to view at: www.mvskokemedia.com/archives/documents/.

According to www.accountingtools.com, a budget is a planning tool used to forecast the financial results and position of an entity for a specific time period.

MCN budgets run from Oct. 1 – Sept. 30 of the following year, instead of following the calendar year.

In the statement published by 'ONN,' George Tiger spoke about the budget process.

'Our budget process is done in a way where there are always checks and balances as our safety factor.'

He said the budgeting process is not based on speculation.

'In a budget process all departments within the tribal health care system are asked to provide a number of what it would take to operate their various departments. The Health care system finance office was given that information.

'The basis for the operation of any department is dependent on true numbers provided and not speculation by the finance office.'

'MNN' reached out to former MCN Secretary of Health Seneca Smith for comment March 30, April 7 and April 20, and left voicemails requesting a call back. Smith has not returned any phone calls as of May 8.

A review of budget approval legislation for FY 2013-2016 provided by the National Council shows that the health department receives a large portion of funding compared to other MCN departments and programs.

The budgets as well as the legislative approval provided to 'MNN' show $3.5 million each year in a funding account titled 'health services.' 'MNN' cannot independently verify where the funds for this account are sourced.

The MCN FY 2013 budget of $217.1 million was approved through NCA 12-195 by Council and signed by George Tiger Sept. 24, 2012, with a combination of $96.8 million in federal and grant monies and $120.2 million in tribal funds.

The health department portion of the budget was $81.5 million for a total of 37.5 percent of the entire MCN funds budgeted.

See Figure 1.

The MCN FY 2014 budget of $234.9 million was approved through NCA 13-237 by Council and signed by George Tiger Sept. 20, 2013, with a combination of $104.4 million in federal and grant monies and $130.4 million in tribal funds.

The health department portion of the budget was $84.9 million, for a total of 36.1 percent of the entire MCN funds budgeted.

See Figure 2.

The MCN FY 2015 budget of $291.4 million was approved through NCA 14-158 by Council and signed by George Tiger Sept. 26, 2014, with a combination of $103.4 million in federal and grant monies and $188 million in tribal funds.

The health department portion of the budget was $125.1 million, for a total of 42.9 percent of the entire MCN funds budgeted.

See Figure 3.

The MCN FY 2016 budget of $292.9 million was approved through NCA 16-016 by Council and signed by Floyd Feb. 2, with a combination of $104.1 in federal and grant monies and $188.8 in tribal funds.

The health department portion of the budget is $131 million, for a total of 44.7 percent of the entire MCN funds budgeted.

The original FY 2016 budget was submitted to Council summer/fall 2015.

Floyd said that modifications were made to the original submitted FY 2016 budget before its final approval in February 2016.

See Figure 4.

Since 2013, MCN has increased their operating budget by 34.9 percent, with an increase in federal funding and grants of 7.5 percent and an increase in tribal funds of 57 percent.

Since 2013, the health department has increased their operating budget by 46 percent, with a decrease in federal funding and grants of 5.63 percent and an increase in tribal funds of 128.3 percent.

See Figure 5.

In his statement with 'ONN,' George Tiger discussed federal funds.

'There has never been enough money to meet the needs of the tribe in health or basic tribal government services. There is a falsehood out there, even with our tribal members that the federal government is taking care of us.

'However, the gaming (monies) that we accrue are mandated by federal regulation on how we can spend that money. We do not have deep pockets per se, even though it may seem that way to the general public.'

In the health budgets obtained, program and facility line items increased from FY 2013 to FY 2016 by two, while the Women, Infants and Children Program and the Elderly Nutrition Program were removed from health depart-

Budget - 12

Figure 1

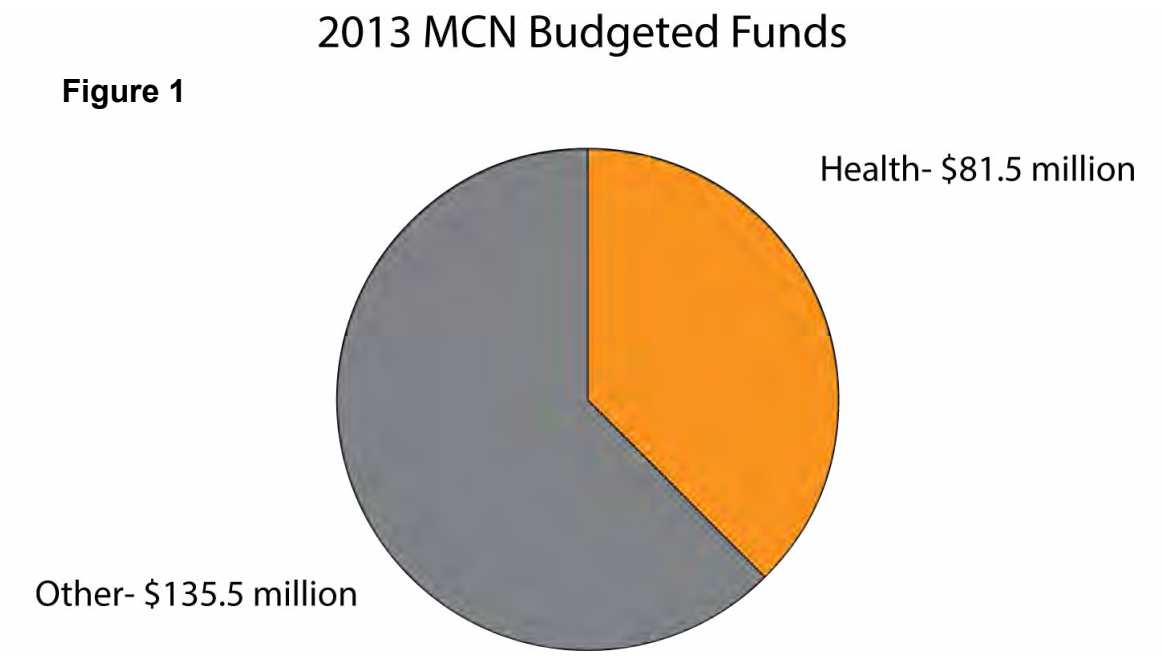


Figure 2

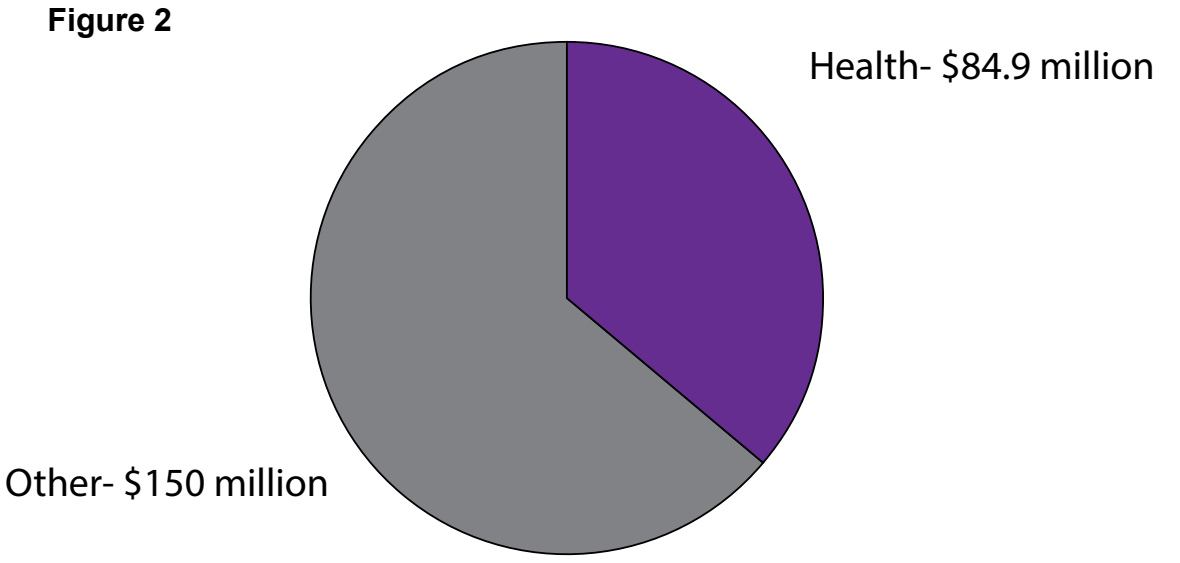


Figure 3

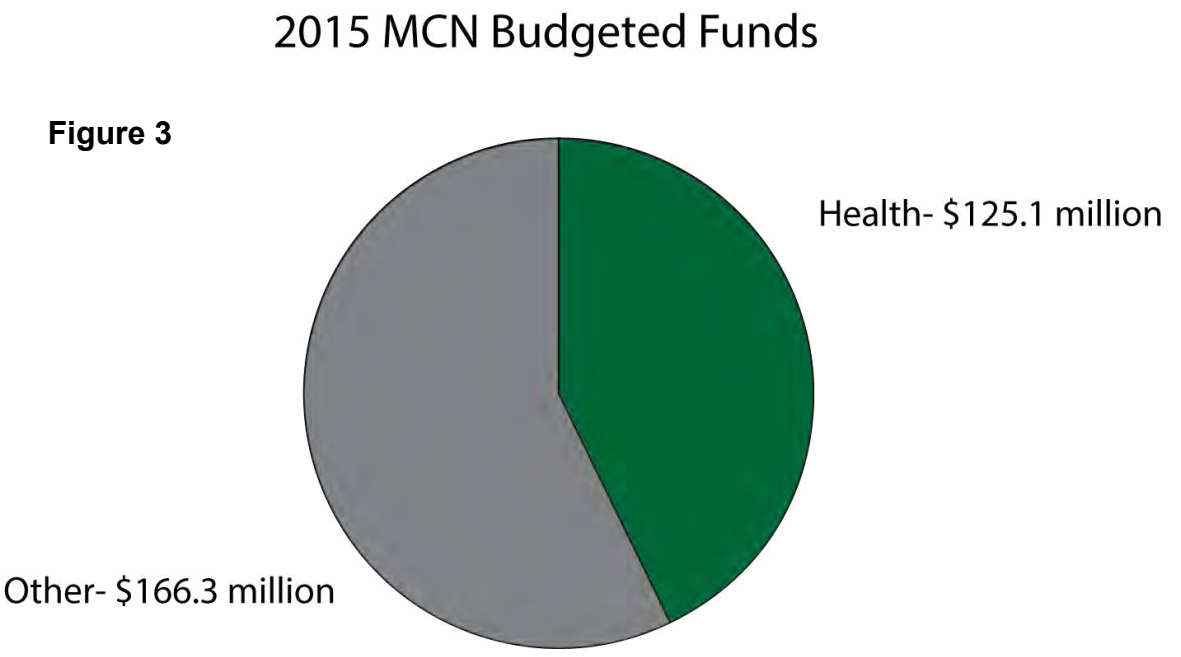


Figure 4

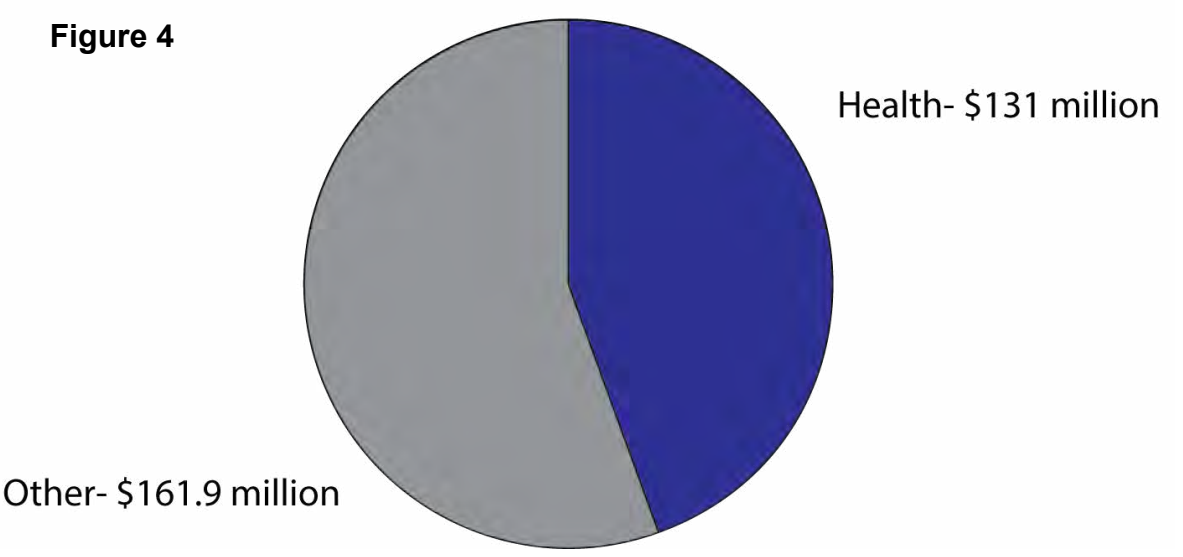
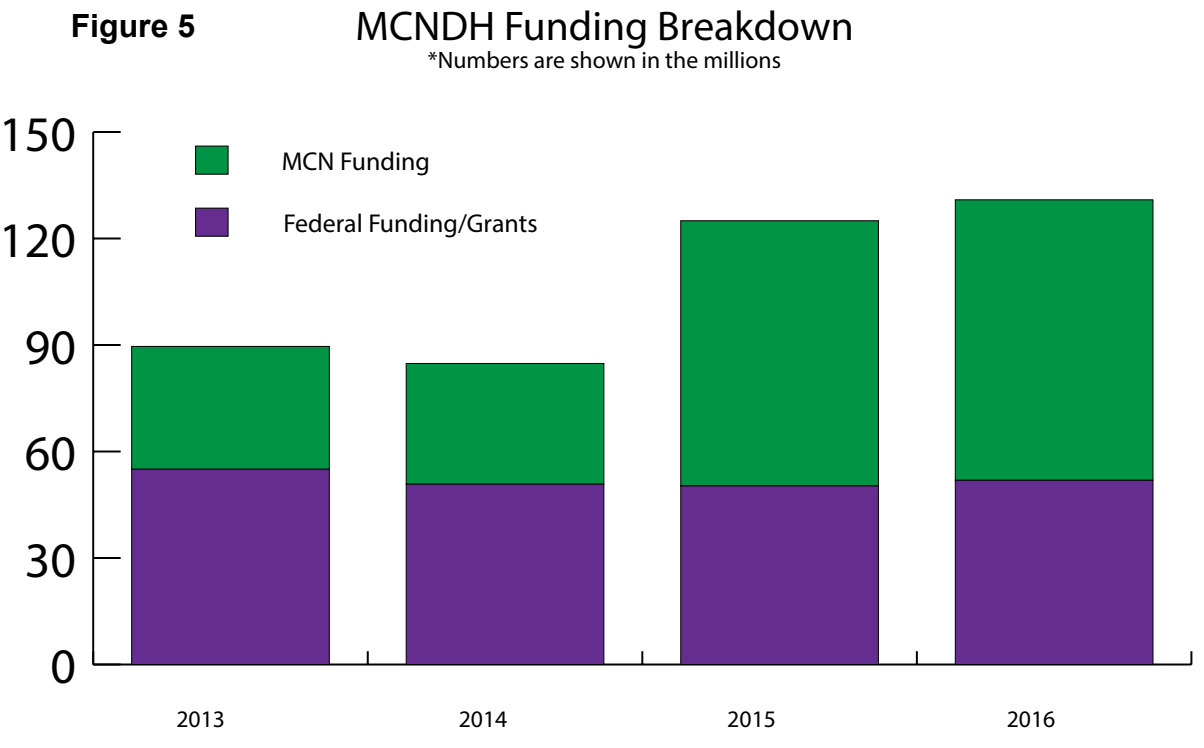


Figure 5



Budget

Continued from page 11

ment management in FY 2014.

According to MCN Public Relations Director Geebon Gouge as of March 22, the health department is estimated to employ around 1,200 individuals.

The budgets show sign-on and retention bonuses, student loan reimbursements, pay increases and in some instances, budgeted overtime for staff members.

'MNN' requested information for how overtime and shift differential pay is calculated in the budget.

"There should be within each department kind of a sub-set of overtime," Floyd said. "And so, it's distributed because it's a normal part of operating a hospital."

The FY 2013 budget shows pay increases for approximately 79 individuals including three health board members.

'MNN' found approximately $100,000 budgeted for overtime in line items listing different amounts for various facilities.

Bonuses and student loan payments for staff totaling around $290,000 were budgeted through various sources including Indian Health Service funds and third party funding accounts.

The budget shows most of the bonuses are paid to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses.

The FY 2014 budget shows pay increases for three individuals including two health board members.

'MNN' was unable to locate a dedicated line item for budgeted overtime.

Bonuses and student loan payments for staff totaling around $210,000 were budgeted through various sources including IHS funds and third party funding accounts. The budget shows most bonuses are paid to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses.

The FY 2015 budget shows a 20 percent pay increase for 21 Community Health Representative Program staff members.

'MNN' located a budgeted overtime line item for the Home Health Program in the amount of $10,000.

Bonuses and student loan payments for staff totaling around $370,000 were budgeted through various sources including IHS funds, hospital, clinic and third party funding accounts.

The budget shows most bonuses are paid to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses.

The FY 2016 budget shows pay increases for approximately 57 staff members including the MCN Community Hospital Emergency Medical Services staff.

'MNN' was unable to locate dedicated line item for budgeted overtime.

Bonuses and student loan payments for staff totaling around $490,000 were budgeted through various sources including IHS funds and third party funding accounts. The budget shows most bonuses are paid to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses.

According to documents made available during the March 21 Council extraordinary session, the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah and all clinics ran a budget deficit from April – July 2014, January – March 2015 and July-September 2015. The operating budgets ended in December 2015 positive $2.9 million.

The same documents show that the MCN Rehabilitation Center in Okmulgee was acquired in the beginning of FY 2014 and ended the first quarter with a positive $594,000. The facility ran a deficit from January 2014 – September 2015. The operating budget ended in December 2015 negative $1.4 million.

The MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee was acquired in the beginning of FY 2014 and ended in March 2014 positive $511,000, according to the documents provided.

The facility ran a deficit from April 2014 – September 2015. At the end of December 2015, the operating budget was negative $3.7 million.

'MNN' requested the estimated number of patients for each MCN facility. Floyd said the Nation is still gathering information that will be published at a later date.

"The information that we're looking at right now is the visits to each facility and the admissions to each hospital," he said. "We will go beyond that and then we will begin to publish that information in the quarterly reports."

George Tiger addressed operating budgets in his statement with 'ONN.'

'Regardless of what business you are in, it takes a while to begin operating in the black. All of our projects(s) are investments and very important to our people and the community as a whole.'

He said the MCN clinics ran a deficit for some time.

'Our Council knew about it, if there was such concern, why wasn't this ever addressed. It is only now the clinics are operating in the black because we used a lot of the Indian Health Services (monies) recouped and that were provided to us.'

In a March 22 interview with Council Speaker Lucian Tiger, he said that the Council's Health, Education and Welfare Committee was presented with a $12 million negative at the end of last year.

"When the numbers were presented to us, yes, they did show a negative but there was always an explanation of why they were a negative and there was also how we were going to make it up, what was going to offset that negative so one and so forth," Lucian Tiger said. "And there was always a time period."

He said that Council was unaware that the health department was running a deficit from 2014 and 2015.

"And also looking at it, you're still going to have a deficit for '16 because the new administration didn't come in until January," Lucian Tiger said. "So this dollar amount you're seeing is offsetting and helping recoup monies from '14, '15 as well as a projected shortfall in '16."

According to the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Budget Summary for MCN provided to 'MNN' by MCN Public Relations, of the $292.9 million annual budget passed by the Council, $188.8 million in funding was provided by MCN. The remaining funds were through federal departments or grants.

Executive Order 16-01 signed by Floyd and dated April 4 calls for FY 2017 budgets to be submitted at 90 percent of the FY 2016 amounts with the exception of federal funds, grants and tribal funds required to match federal funds and grants received. The executive order states that budgets were to be turned in by April 22, and estimated that they will be given to the Council for approval by June 1.

Based upon the amounts budgeted for FY 2016 utilizing tribal funds, the total MCN FY 2017 budget could include up to $18.8 million in cuts.

The amount of tribal funds required to match federal funds and grants could not be independently verified using the information provided by the MCN Public Relations.

The amount should be lower than the estimate when factoring in matching funds.

Based upon the FY 2016 amounts budgeted for the health department utilizing tribal funds, the total health budget could be cut by $7.9 million.

The amount of tribal funds required to match the department's federal funding and grants could not be independently verified using the information provided by the MCN Public Relations.

The amount should be lower than the estimate when factoring in matching funds.

In further coverage of the reported health deficit, 'MNN' will review other documents and interviews obtained regarding MCN budgets, loans, audits and discussion of the issue by MCN officials.

MUSCOGEE NATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISHED 1970

CYNTHIA FACTOR



TULSA, Okla. — Cynthia Louise Factor was born Oct. 22, 1943 in Claremore to the late Walter Factor and the late Lucille (Fields) Factor. She passed away March 26, 2016 in Tulsa at 72 years-of-age.

Cynthia was employed by the Tulsa Public Health Department as a purchasing agent.

She was a member of the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church and was proud of her Muscogee (Creek) heritage.

She enjoyed sewing, traveling, square dancing, bowling and playing golf. But her greatest love was spending time with her family, especially her grandkids. She was also a collector of frogs and alligators.

Cynthia was preceded in death by her: parents and a brother, Michael Wayne Factor.

Survivors include her: children, Cindy Branson and husband Barry of Skiatook, Lisa Van Brunt and husband Keith of Worland, Wyo., and Paul Treat and wife Angie of Beggs; grandchildren, Terra, Marissa and Samantha Branson, Summer Preble and husband Zach, Billy Hamilton and wife Lauryn, Stephanie Ledbetter and husband Chad, Sherri Roberts and husband Opie, Tiffany Treat and Brodie and Jessica Van Brunt; great-grandchildren, Lillie, Madison, Westen, Justin, Cayden, Callie and Cambrynn; sister, Arlene Efurd and husband Ronnie of Beggs and a sister-in-law, Peggy Factor of Broken Arrow.

A funeral service was held March 29 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church with Rev. Sammy Chupco officiating. Interment followed at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

Casketbearers were: Amos Cowans, Opie Roberts, Chad Ledbetter, Barry Branson, Keith Van Brunt and Billy Hamilton.

Honorary Casketbearers were: Paul Treat and Ronnie Efurd. Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

JEANETTA JACK



HANNA, Okla. — Jeanetta Jack, a longtime resident of Hanna, passed from this life May 2, 2016 at her home in Hanna at the age of 71. Jeanetta was born Nov. 13, 1944 in Hanna to Mitchell Jack and Louma Pigeon.

Jeanetta grew up in the Hanna area and attended school at Dustin Public Schools.

Following her education, Jeanetta settled into country life, a lifestyle she absolutely loved.

She was a longtime participant at the Arbeka and Alabama stompgrounds where she performed as a shellshaker. Jeanetta loved all adventures in the outdoors. She was particularly fond of her pets, including dogs and cats.

She was a loving daughter, sister and aunt and she will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her mother and father; brothers, Joseph Jack, Elmer Jack and Eric Jack and a nephew, Chance Smith.

Jeanetta is survived by her: sisters, LeeAnn Jack of Hanna, Joann Jack of Dustin, Pauline Hart of Morris and Angela Fullmore of Dustin; brother, Jimmy Jack of Weleetka; numerous nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews as well as other extended family and many good friends.

A funeral service was held at the family home in Hanna May 6, 2016 at under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Interment followed immediately at the Jack Family Cemetery in Hanna.

Pallbearers were: Kyle Hart, Brandon Jack, Billy Harjo, Elmer Jack Jr., Joe Frair and Johnny Jack. Honorary pallbearers were: Dominick Jack, Tyler Jack, Dylan Melton, Willie Frair, Robbie Jack and Oscar Pigeon.

An Online Guestbook is available at: www.integrityfuneralservice.com.

Chilocco reunion set May 26-29

NEWKIRK, Okla. — A reunion for the Chilocco class of 1966 is set May 26-29 at the First Council Casino in Newkirk and the Chilocco campus.

To register call Emma Jean Falling at: 918-266-1626. For more information call Clarence Johnson at: 918-752-9512.

MCN Scholarship pageant set June 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant has been set for June 4 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Ominplex in Okmulgee.

The doors open at 2:30 p.m. and the event starts at 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited and it will conclude with a reception.

Women's conference set June 4

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The Elm Tree Women's Conference has been set for 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., June 4 at Elm Tree Baptist Church in Tahlequah.

For more information contact Alicia Amaro at: 918-772-0201.

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

June 1, 2016 "Kvcohvse" Blackberry Month

Vol. 46, Issue 11



2016 MCN graduate profiles — Pages 9-14

MCN quarterly financials — Pages 14-16

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Fractured Finances:
Audit shows decrease of health department net position

$86 million health facility loan contains balloon payment

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In response to the reported budget deficit at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health (MCNDH), the 'Muscogee Nation News' requested copies of the fiscal year 2013, 2014 and 2015 audits and end of year financial statements for MCNDH.

'MNN' also requested information regarding the loan approved March 21 to address the reported deficit and the loans to finance new MCN health facilities.

Audits

'MNN' obtained copies of the FY 2013 and 2014 audits.

The audits can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/archives/documents/.

'The books for 2015 were closed in February and the audit for 2015 will be completed by the end of May,' former MCN Acting Controller Kathy Guthrie said in a written statement March 30.

Guthrie is no longer acting controller as of April 4.

Legislation for her nomination was postponed indefinitely at the April 30 National Council session.

The FY 2014 audit, performed by REDW LLC, is dated as completed June 29, 2015.

Throughout the audit, it refers to MCN departments that were audited collectively as 'The Department.'

The audit defines net position on page 30.

'The difference between assets and liabilities is "net position" on the department-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund statements.'

According to www.businessdictionary.com, an as-

Health ~ 3



Courtesy Stephanie Remer/Cherokee Nation

Muscogee (Creek) citizens: Sara Barnett, Northeastern State University Director of the Center of Tribal Studies, along with NSU graduates Dimitri Mahee, Chelsie Rich, Andria Smith, Dakota Berryhill at the 16th annual NSU American Indian Convocation

NSU holds Native convocation

Citizens graduate from NSU

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The Northeastern State University Center for Tribal Studies held the 16th annual American Indian Convocation April 29, at the University Center Ballroom on the Tahlequah campus.

"As I wrap up my first year in this position, the American Indian Convocation is by far, my favorite event," NSU Center for Tribal Studies Director Sara Barnett said. "There is nothing I en-

NSU ~ 5

Sexual abuse survivor shares story

Lewis advocates for tougher statute of limitations

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Torture. Living hell. Chaos. Abandonment. Shattering of innocence. Stripped of dignity. Crushing of my soul.

These are words and phrases that were used by advocate and educator, Virginia 'Ginger' Lewis, to describe what she went through during the sexual abuse that she endured by her father, George Michael Lewis from the ages of 11-16.

She shared her story May 5 during childhood abuse

Survivor ~ 4

Bucktrot discusses housing payments, waiting list

115 delinquent payment cases reported

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Acting Secretary of Housing Alvin Bucktrot discussed delinquent housing payments, the housing waiting list and the confirmation of his position by the National Council being postponed.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In response to questions regarding a statement he made during an April 11 National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Acting Secretary of Housing Alvin Bucktrot discussed issues he has encountered while serving in his position.

During the HEW meeting, Bucktrot mentioned that he had encountered cases of citizens not making the required payments towards their home. Bucktrot said this involved the homeownership program and estimated the number of delinquent cases to be around 115.

"…I pulled a few reports and I realized that it was just all over the Nation as far as housing goes, that there's so many out there that are behind," he said. "And I mean way behind, not a month or two. I mean a year or so behind. And in some cases it's a few thousand dollars."

Bucktrot said he believes that the payments previously went ignored.

"I think it's just a lack of enforcing policy back in the day that causes all these problems," he said.

Bucktrot said each citizen is required to sign a home ownership agreement, requiring them to make monthly payments, cover maintenance for the home, among other requirements.

The funds Housing obtains from the payments comply with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations and go back to the department.

"Because those funds that the housing gets from the rents goes back into other programs that help us rehab or do repairs on other houses," Bucktrot said. "So, if they're not paying rent, then that fund is going to get drawn down and then eventually we'll probably run short and not be able to help somebody.

"But that's all that's about is make them aware and make them accountable for what they agreed to do."

He said that citizens will have until the new fiscal year to plan, catch up on payments or make a payment plan with the department.

The program agreement provided to Mvskoke Media by Bucktrot states, 'In the

Housing ~ 2

Water feature makes a splash with citizens, locals



Gary Fife/MNN

Children enjoy opening day for the new splash pad May 10 on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Council, Tourism and Recreation team up for children recreation

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With a snip of the oversized scissors cutting the bright red ribbon, dozens of local children began enjoying the cool sprinkles and splashes of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's newest addition to the Claude Cox Ominplex, a 'splash pad.'

Dozens of children waited patiently at the May 10 event and enjoyed opening day in the water with excited squeals and laughter.

A splash pad is a recreation area for water play that has little or no standing water by spraying it up from underground.

MCN National Council Rep. James Jennings who sponsored the project, said the idea for the splash pad came up before the 2015 MCN Festival.

He said the project took a little longer than anticipated but was worth it.

"Construction was started about two weeks after the festival and was supposed to be about an eight week project and it turned into a six month project," Jennings said. "But the end results was for these kids out. You see them, they're enjoying it and that's what the whole thing's about."

Jennings said canopies will be added to the area at a later

Splash ~ 8

Housing

Continued from page 1

event the Homebuyer fails to comply with any of the obligations under this Agreement, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing may terminate the Agreement by written notice to the Homebuyer, enforced by eviction procedures applicable to landlord-tenant relationships.'

"That's the last thing that I want to do is try to get somebody out of their house. I do not want to do that," Bucktrot said. "But, we still have obligations to HUD and to the Nation and to the Housing Authority to make these changes."

He also addressed the waiting list for housing programs.

"It's performing the best it can right now… And what it is, is we only have so many houses in inventory that are vacant, which is very minimal versus the list that we have," Bucktrot said. "It's extremely long. There's not enough houses for us to buy say in Holdenville, Eufaula."

He said that the department can also build homes for citizens on the allotted land that they have inherited.

"And HUD regulations, all that land they have to have a deed in their hand that has their name on it… Then we can put you a house on there without you waiting years and years for that house," Bucktrot said.

Bucktrot said that he has not seen a waiting list waiver since he has served as acting secretary, and that he will not allow it while he is in that position.

The resolution to approve Bucktrot as MCN secretary of housing was postponed indefinitely during the April 30 Council session.

He said he has not spoken with any representatives regarding the reason.

"I just kind of took it in stride," Bucktrot said. "And I said, 'It's out of my hands. It's whatever they want to do.' "

He said he enjoys serving the Nation in his current capacity and feels he has made a difference in the department.

View 'Native News Today' coverage at: http://tinyurl.com/hlay567.



Native News Today

A train the trainer program was held May 9 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla., to better inform those who help with benefits provided through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs so they can enhance their service to eligible veterans.

Veterans Administration meeting held to train the trainers

National event prepares veterans services workers

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee was used as a training venue May 9 for workers who serve Native American veterans through benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis said professionals from more than six states gathered to better understand the various VA benefits.

"Its primary focus is, explain service connected benefits that were earned by veterans' blood, sweat and tears," Davis said.

WJ 'Buck' Richardson, Minority Veterans Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Healthcare Network of Denver said the event was held to help those who work with VA benefits better understand the process so they can enhance their service to eligible veterans.

"What this is, is a program that reaches out to train people to understand VA benefits, not only on the health care side, but the benefits side to be able to train individuals to reach out to veterans and their family members to better utilize the benefits that veterans have earned through their service to the country," he said.

Richardson explained that the meeting was designed to provide information on the widest range of VA benefits since the need was not just in one or a few topics.

"This program tries to help them understand what they've actually earned as a result of their service to the country," he said. "So, it helps them with the benefits side, the VBA the Veterans Benefits Administration and some with the National Cemetery Administration, so that when a veteran passes away, the family understands what they actually have as far as burial benefits. It tries to help them understand what their education benefits are."

He said success in serving Native American veterans requires a personal commitment.

"One thing that we try to tell all the TVRs (tribal veterans representatives) is reach out to one veteran every day," Richardson said. "If you reach out to one veteran every day, you're doing what you are trying to learn and if you help one veteran per day, then you've done what you tried to learn."

The session included a quick tour of the MCN Veterans Affairs Service Office building and an explanation of the program.

"Our program demonstrates how a program could be the absolute example of why a VA can be successful," Davis said.

For more information about MCN VASO call: 918-732-7745.

MCN observes National Prevention Week



Liz Gray/Mvskoke Media

Okmulgee County Health Department Health Educator Stephanie Plante-Birkes leads 'Tai Chi in the Garden' May 16 to promote the day's theme of tobacco prevention in observance of National Prevention Week in conjunction with Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Several activities, themes provided each day

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health partnered with several departments throughout Okmulgee County to offer activities in observance of National Prevention Week, which is May 15-21.

The theme for this year is, 'Strong as One Stronger Together.'

The first day of activities was themed Prevention of Tobacco Use and the exercise hosted for that was 'Tai Chi in the Garden,' which was held outside May 16 at the Okmulgee County Health Department.

"Today is Tobacco Prevention so we are enjoying the clean air by doing Tai Chi out by our garden," OCHD Health Educator Stephanie Plante-Birkes said.

A different prevention theme will be observed each day for topics such as underage drinking and alcohol misuse as well as prevention of prescription and opioid drug misuse.

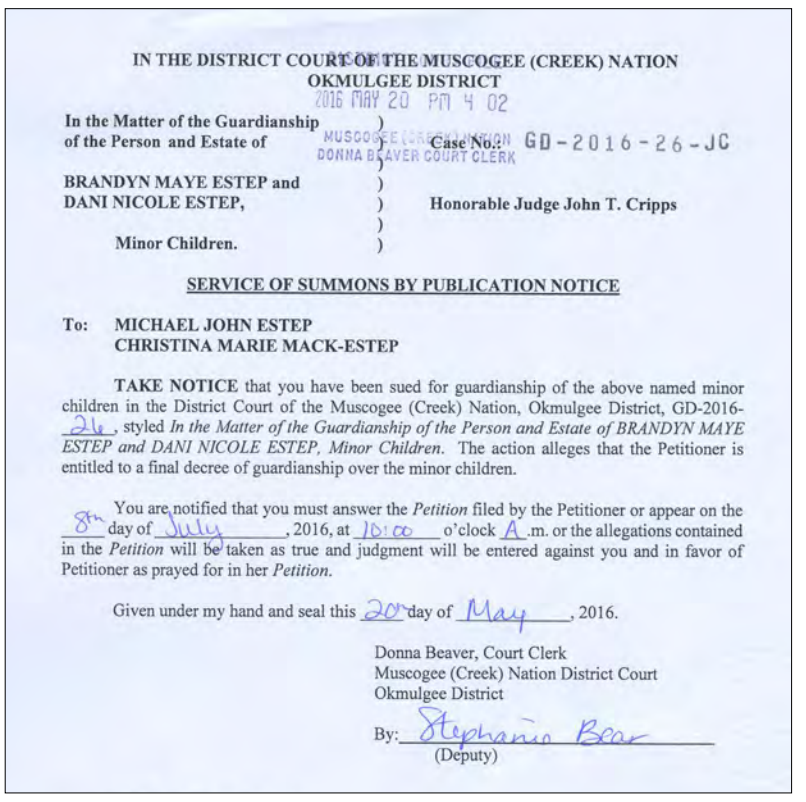
"We felt that we need to get more awareness out on the education in prevention," Plante-Burks said.

She said Tai Chi also helps prevent falling as well as the fear of falling and shared some other benefits.

"Practicing Tai Chi can help with your mind body connection," Plante-Burks said. "It also helps with your walking and improves your posture."

Mvskoke Media was referred to the MCN Office of Public Relations for interviews with MCNDH employees.

For more information on National Prevention Week and Tai Chi, call OCHD at: 918-756-1833.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT
2016 MAY 20 PM 4 02
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DONNA BEAVER COURT CLERK

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of BRANDYN MAYE ESTEP and DANI NICOLE ESTEP, Minor Children. — Case No.: GD-2016-26-JC — Honorable Judge John T. Cripps

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: MICHAEL JOHN ESTEP
CHRISTINA MARIE MACK-ESTEP

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the above named minor children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-26, styled *In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of BRANDYN MAYE ESTEP and DANI NICOLE ESTEP, Minor Children.* The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a final decree of guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner or appear on the 8th day of July, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock A.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition.*

Given under my hand and seal this 20th day of May, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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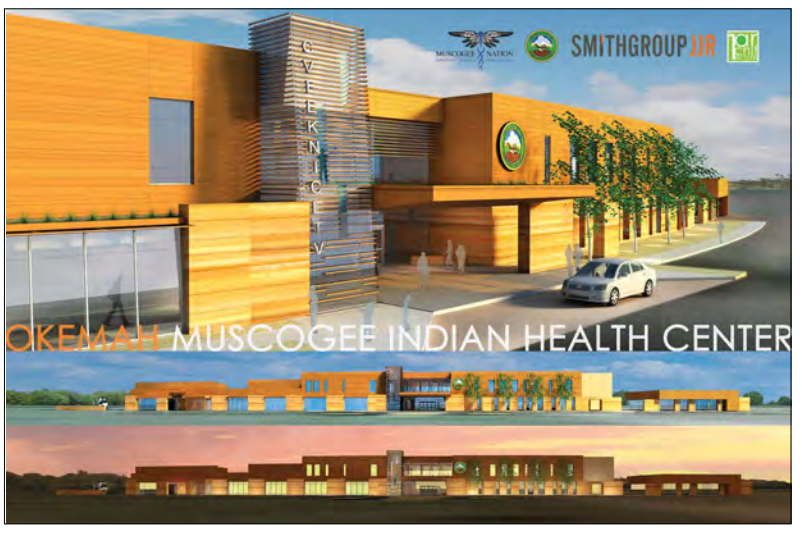
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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Courtesy MCNDH

A groundbreaking ceremony was held May 16, 2014 for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla. Renderings have not been furnished for the Eufaula Indian Health Center project.

set is something of value in which an entity owns, benefits or has use of in generating income. A liability is a claim against the assets of the organization.

Page four discusses MCNDH net position.

'Business type activities reported a decrease in net position of $8.7 million. This decrease is attributable to the Department of Health's operating expenses exceeding its operating revenues by $65.2 million, while the federal grants and contracts only offset $48.7 million of that operating loss.'

The report attributes the decrease to health department activities.

'The Department's (MCN) business-type activities showed substantial increases in operating revenues and operating expenses from the prior year, primarily related to the Department of Health's acquisition of two new medical facilities in 2014, including a medical center and a rehabilitation center.'

Page 17 shows calculations for the net position of the health department as of Sept. 30, 2014 to be $38,124,146. Page 18 shows the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the health department.

In an emailed response to 'MNN' questions, National Council Speaker Lucian Tiger stated that the Council received the FY 2014 audit Aug. 25, 2015.

The audit also discusses MCN budgets and financials.

'Annually, all funds adopt a budget. Changes to the budgets during a fiscal year are infrequent. Overall, the general fund expenditures were within the total amount budgeted.

'The expenditures of certain line-items, however, exceeded the amounts budgeted. In contract the expenditures for the entire general fund budget were 16.4 percent less than the budgeted amount.'

The report shows conditions and deficiencies found during the audit.

'The Department (MCN) does not have a current and up-to-date documented accounting policies and procedures manual. The manual the Department currently works from is severely outdated.'

The management response to this listed in the audit states that a new version of accounting policies and procedures will be written in FY 2015.

Another deficiency detailed in the report describes auditing adjustments after the accounting records were closed at the end of the year.

'Accounting transactions were not fully analyzed and accurately recorded, and monthly reconciliations were not performed for significant general ledger accounts.'

The management response indicated changes would be made to accounting practices, and described how the current system operates and provides information for accounting purposes.

The report identifies improper use of debit cards previously reported on former MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett's office.

The audit reports deficiencies in vaccination records maintained.

'The Department does not maintain copies of immunization records to document controls are in place to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases.'

MCN Public Relations Director Geebon Gouge said this is related to the Child Care and Development Block Grant and not the health department.

The management response indicated immunization records will be requested at the time of application.

Other deficiencies are notated in the report.

Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger discussed the reported health deficit in an April 27 interview with Mvskoke Media.

The interview can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/tiger-speaks-former-chief-addresses-reported-health-deficit/.

"I think to some degree there's been some sensationalism in the theme, if you will, of whatever is going on in health. There hasn't been a deficit.

"We didn't know of a deficit when we left. There wasn't any deficit in terms of what the process or what we knew in terms of what was going on with health," George Tiger said.

George Tiger said he hopes the Council will look into information they have been presented.

"Well, number one is, I think still yet there's some people, employees that are jockeying themselves for positions to make sure they keep their positions," he said. "Maybe providing somethings that really needs to be studied."

George Tiger said he feels the Nation was left financially stable at the end of his term.

"It was consistent with the growth that we had during my administration. The stability in the finance part of it is pretty well documented in terms of our growth with the so called permanent fund," he said. "And there were periods of time prior to me coming on there were some deficits. We addressed those issues and turned some of those things around."

'MNN' reached out to former MCN Secretary of Health Seneca Smith for comment March 30, April 7 and April 20, and left voicemails requesting a call back. Smith has not returned any phone calls as of April 30.

George Tiger said he has been in contact with Smith and that Smith is unable to comment on the situation due to his federal employment status.



George Tiger said his office and the Council received all of the financial reports during his administration, and would have addressed any items of concern.

"The one thing that you have to remember is, we basically improved a lot of facets of what was going on in health. So we had to spend money… Some of the things that we presented to the Council and they addressed, we all believed that it needed to be done together, the executive and the legislative," he said.

Health department loans

According to TR 16-045, a $65.68 million loan will be taken out with Bank of America-Merrill Lynch to reinstate funds to the health department.

The loan will have an adjustable interest rate estimated to be around 1.326 percent, which combines the 30-day London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 0.886 percent.

According to www.bankrate.com, the 30-day LIBOR rate as of April 20 was 0.44 percent.

'MNN' requested interviews with MCN health and financial officials for clarification about information obtained through documents, meetings and interviews.

'MNN' was granted an interview with MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

The MCN Public Relations Department requested a list of questions be sent for review prior to the interview.

Floyd said that the loan to fix the reported health deficit is revolving, does not have an end date and does not contain a waiver of sovereign immunity.

According to www.businessdictionary.com, a revolving account, 'does not have to be paid in full before obtaining goods or services against the available credit limit.'

"We don't give up any sovereign immunity so there would be nothing in there that would waive sovereign immunity for our tribe," he said.

According to the unsigned loan agreement obtained by 'MNN' from Council, the adjustable interest rate for the yet to be built Okemah and Eufaula health facilities is the LIBOR rate plus 2.05 percent.

'MNN' cannot independently verify that the loan agreement signed matches the unsigned copy that was reviewed by Council.

It is unknown which LIBOR rate index is used for the calculation, but the loan agreement states that the rate is to be adjusted monthly.

According to documents provided during a March 21 Council extraordinary session, the combined annual payment for the Okemah hospital and Eufaula clinic is $6.1 million, with a balloon payment of $74 million at the end of the four-year term for the joint loan to construct and start the facilities.

The documents can be viewed at: www.mcnnc.com/images/Attachment%20to%20TR%2016-045.pdf.

According to www.investopedia.com, a balloon payment is, 'An oversized payment due at the end of a mortgage, commercial loan or other amortized loan. Because the entire loan amount is not amortized over the life of the loan, the remaining balance is due as a final repayment to the lender.'

This means that MCN will be required to pay an estimated $74 million in one lump sum at the end of the four-year period.

Floyd said he is not sure of the exact date of when the four-year period will expire.

The unsigned agreement is dated Nov. 3, 2014 and was approved by Council December 11, 2014.

It states that the maturity date is the 5th anniversary of the closing date, and defines the closing date as the date in which certain outlined conditions such as loan documents and construction information have been satisfied.

Floyd said the plan is to pay the full amount when it becomes due.

"The plan is we pay it at that time. We generate the revenue from the health care system. We're working on that right now and we've increased collections.

"There was a reserve fund previously. That's been depleted but what we will do is the revenue that would've gone to the reserve fund will go to the loan payments to remove that debt because the reserve fund should've paid it in the beginning," Floyd said.

The unsigned loan agreement also includes a waiver of sovereign immunity. The agreement can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/archives/documents/.

In a March 22 interview, 'MNN' asked Lucian Tiger if enough information was provided when the Council voted on the $86 million loan agreement.

"No, because the complete understanding of that was… I didn't understand the large balloon payments that were going to be at the end," he said.

George Tiger said he is surprised there are questions regarding the balloon payment.

"…Because every big project this Nation has ever done, whether it is in gaming or other things, there's always been a standard practice of having balloon payments," he said.

George Tiger said the loan for the Margaritaville expansion of River Spirit Casino also has a balloon payment.

"All I know is this, that we got probably one of the best gaming industry syndicated loans in the country on that project," he said. "And again, it does have a balloon payment on it and of course before I could even sign the contract on it, it went before the Council and they approved it."

Floyd said that the estimated completion for the Okemah hospital is December 2016, and construction has not began on the Eufaula clinic.

"There's two portions that we're working on that need to occur for the construction to start," he said.

Floyd explained that MCN will need to work with the Indian Health Service for the joint-venture project to determine if the layout fits the approved space and the square footage of the entire facility so that IHS can determine the staff they will fund.

According to 'MNN' records, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Eufaula clinic May 28, 2015.

In further coverage of the reported health deficit, 'MNN' will review other documents and interviews obtained regarding MCN budgets, loans, audits and discussion of the issue by MCN officials.

SURVIVOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prevention/sexual assault awareness event hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program as well as the Children and Family Services Administration at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

According to Tulsa Channel 8 coverage, Michael Lewis is a high-powered attorney who was scheduled to teach a class called the Ethics of Representing Children for the Tulsa Lawyers for Children organization.

The outlet contacted TLC about personal testimony given by Virginia Lewis at the state capitol in support of House Bill 2292, that implicated Michael Lewis in his crimes against her and their coverage stated he then voluntarily removed himself as the lecturer. The bill was proposed to extend the statute of limitations for such crimes from 12 to 18 years.

Michael Lewis previously received a deferred prosecution agreement for abusing Virginia Lewis, which required an acknowledgement of his misconduct and psychotherapy in exchange for not being charged.

"Even if he hadn't, he would probably still be free anyway because of the statue of limitations," Virginia Lewis was quoted in the coverage.

During the MCN event, Virginia Lewis said her final legislative goal is to follow models set by states such as Delaware and Minnesota.

"My ultimate objective is to have the statute of limitations eliminated completely," she said. "It gives the victims time to heal so when it is time, they can hold their abusers accountable and not be told, 'I'm sorry, it is too late.' "

Virginia Lewis said that being able to speak about the subject publicly has helped her healing process.

"It is a seismic shift to go from living with a burden to being released from it," she said.

Virginia Lewis said she kept letters and legal papers about her family's dark secret for more than 30 years.

"I was very nervous," she said. "This is my first public presentation and it is a difficult story to tell."

Virginia Lewis said the healing process will last a lifetime but that she is not distraught over that.

"Because I would feel that I am always falling short of it (healing)," she said. "The healing process is manageable. If you continue to work with it directly, you can feel empowered."

She also created the website: www.toprevail.org that shares her story and available resources for those who suffer abuse.

"It is also a place for victims to go for help," Virginia Lewis said. "It is also a place for people to sign up for my support group."

Virginia Lewis said that she has looked around and cannot find any support groups that are for survivors only.

"Therapists have told me that since support groups are not money makers, administrators aren't willing to allow therapists time off to lead those groups," she said. "So this group that I am leading will not be therapists led groups, it will only be survivors."

Virginia Lewis said she only recently met another survivor and that the feeling of isolation increases suffering.

"I really do believe it is healing for survivors to come forward and share their stories," Virginia Lewis said.

Event coordinator, MCN Resource Home Recruitment and Training Manager Holly Dunn said she was pleased to have Virginia Lewis as a keynote speaker.

"Awareness of child abuse and child sexual abuse, which I know is a very hard topic to discuss but it is something that we need to bring to the forefront," Dunn said.

Virginia Lewis has new words to describe her situation after becoming an advocate. Empowered. Liberated. Healing. Joyful. Energized. Free.

According to the Oklahoma State Legislature website, HB 2292 passed unanimously in the House.

Oklahoma State Senate Communications Director Malia Bennett said the bill was then referred to the senate judiciary committee but was not called for a hearing before the legislative session deadline.

"I absolutely am going to tackle it again next year," Virginia Lewis said.

According to a 'Tulsa World' article, Michael Lewis was asked to resign from the Doerner Saunders Daniel law firm. According to the Oklahoma Supreme Court website, he was also allowed to resign from the Oklahoma Bar Association in response to a grievance filed against him.



Manager fights sexual assault, pursues combat in downtime



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Manager, Lena Pizzolato has trained in Muay Thai for competition.

Pizzolato has two opponents drop out before matches

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — By day and on-call, she works as nurse for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health taking care of our citizens. On her personal time, she turns into a Muay Thai and American kickboxer.

Sounds like a superhero story right? Well it is also true.

Pizzolato is the MCNDH Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program manager. SANE is a program funded by a grant awarded through a joint effort between the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program and MCNDH.

The program provides care for victims of sexual assault and also exams to collect forensic evidence for further inquiry by law enforcement.

"She has gone through a very specific and intensive training program to be certified as sexual assault nurse examiners," MCN FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said. "Lena and another nurse are the only ones who can conduct those sexual assault exams."

Partridge said it is a common misconception that a basic hospital visit is enough for these instances, stating that most facilities lack the necessary resources provided through SANE.

Pizzolato said this type of care was barely mentioned when she was in school.

"There was a very small portion in one of our textbooks," she said. "Because it was so small, I thought that there was not a lot of people who do that."

Over the years, she discovered this is true and decided to help out.

"That would be something I can do," Pizzolato said. "I saw the listing for this and I applied for the position. It could not have been more perfect."

Pizzolato said she is up for the challenge and ready to help through the examinations or by educating victims and the community on what is available to combat sexual assault.

"Anything social, I have been doing what I can to get the word out and let people know of the resources that we have for them if something like this were to ever happen," Pizzolato said.

Pizzolato has been into combat of a different kind since she was a girl.

"I have been into some type of martial arts since I was about four or five," she said. "It was very popular then and we had a lot schools that taught that."

Pizzolato said she stopped pursing it when she was about 17. She eventually got married, had children and martial arts were not a priority.

"I have always been active because I was into other sports," she said. "I had basketball leagues."

Her interest was rekindled when she kept driving by a gym in Okmulgee.

"I have been into some type of martial arts since I was about four or five. It was very popular then and we had a lot schools that taught that."

— SANE Nurse Examiner Program Manager Lena Pizzolato

"Paddy's Gym opened up downtown and I drove by it countless times," Pizzolato said. "Everyone was very welcoming and nice."

Pizzolato said she was nervous at first but once she settled in with the friendly atmosphere, she thought, "Now they can't get rid of me."

She grew up participating in Karate tournaments but her new chosen styles have a different way of measuring success.

"With the karate tournaments, those are on points," Pizzolato said. "When you get your point you stop. With the fighting that I am doing now, you fight for a certain amount of minutes for about three or four rounds."

It took her a little bit but she adjusted to this.

"It is weird being in a boxing ring as opposed to a taped off area," Pizzolato said. "Competition is competition.

Pizzolato was going to make her debut at the Beggs RV Ranch this March but the week of the fight, something happened that prevented her from being able to.

"For this fight, the girl pulled out of the fight at the last minute," Pizzolato said.

Pizzolato had another fight scheduled April 23 at Okmulgee High School Brock Gymnasium and her trainer Jarrod Holrath said that opponent also dropped out.

NSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

joy more than celebrating the achievements of our American Indian students."

According to NSU's Fall 2015 American Indian Profile, the university is ranked first among four-year colleges in the number of baccalaureate degrees conferred by Native Americans.

'I firmly believe that Native Americans should seek higher education. Higher education is an avenue or path to a successful and prosperous career,' Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dimitri Mahee stated in writing.

NSU is also first in the number of full-time undergraduates.

'Many individuals would say higher education does not have the ability to make for 'real life' applications. That is not true. I thought that very statement was true, but when I stepped into college, that concept had left me. Now, I can say a secondary education does apply to life and is vital,' Mahee stated.

Mahee participated in the MCN Summer Youth Program where he worked for the dental clinic at Koweta Indian Health Center in Coweta.

'I feel that it has influenced me tremendously… I was so blessed to be around such awesome people in which, the atmosphere was always great,' Mahee stated.

Mahee pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a cellular emphasis.

Every year, American Indian students who graduate from NSU are invited to the ceremony to celebrate academic achievement and receive a stole that represents the university's American Indian legacy.

'Northeastern State University has a great deal of appreciation and value towards the Native American students. NSU was founded upon Native principles. So with saying that, the pressure and attention is upon all Native students who are in attendance there,' Mahee stated. 'However, I do not take that in a bad way because it is a level of expectation they have for us and that integrity has to be upheld 24/7.'

According to the program, the stole features a design, which reflects the history of American Indian education at NSU, printed in white on a dark green satin material.

On one side of the stole are seven diamonds, which represent the seven clans of the Cherokee, in remembrance of the Cherokee National Seminaries, which served as the foundation for NSU.

The NSU clock tower logo appears on the other panel with the text: Northeastern State University, Legacy of American Indian Education.

The stole is a visual symbol of this legacy and may be worn for the NSU Spring Commencement Ceremony.

'The Native students are representatives of a great university and I speak for every one of the students who are Native when I say, 'thank you NSU for instilling a huge amount of time and effort into us,' ' Mahee stated.

Muscogee (Creek) students listed in the program were:

Blaine Badgett
Fort Gibson
Bachelor of Science – criminal justice

Dakota Berryhill
Sapulpa
Bachelor of Science – criminal justice, homeland security

Jerry Dunn
Muskogee
Bachelor of Science – organizational leadership

Jacob Goodrich
Stillwell
Bachelor of Science – health and human performance

Retta Kadlec
Muskogee
Bachelor of Arts – psychology

Dimitri Mahee
Muskogee
Bachelor of Science – biology, cellular emphasis

Andria Smith,
Prague
Bachelor of Science – criminal justice, homeland security

Alisha Trickey
Muskogee
Bachelor of social work

Linette Factor
Welling
Professional Master of Business Administration

Lesley Fain
Okmulgee
Master of Science – occupational therapy

Chelsie Rich
Henryetta
Master of Science – higher education leadership

According to American Indian profile, American Indian students made up 34.3 percent of the total number of enrolled students at NSU for Fall 2015.

"In addition to focusing efforts on retention of American Indian students, I would also like to get more of our students involved in research and study abroad programs," said Barnett.

Muscogee (Creek) students made up 9.4 percent of the American Indian student population, which makes Muscogee (Creek) Nation second among the tribes represented by citizens attending NSU.

'The Muscogee (Creek) Nation cares for our tribe, particularly in this instance, the youth. I feel that the Creek Nation knows that the advancement and longevity of our tribe lies with in the youth,' Mahee said. 'I am so grateful for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the services they provide for all individuals who are striving to accomplish success.'

The 2016 NSU Spring Commencement ceremony was held May 7-8, on the Tahlequah campus and May 9, on the Broken Arrow Campus.

"My goal as the director is to continue the legacy of excellence in supporting the American Indian students and surrounding community," Barnett said.

The Civil War ripped Creek Nation: part 3

Don Diehl/*Non-Citizen*

SAPULPA, Okla. — Opothleyahola then pushed further north during the night. The Confederates did not immediately give chase and declared they had won the battle.

Cooper reported his troops killed more than a hundred Unionists and he lost, "a handful of men."

Subsequent skirmishes occurred on Monday, Dec. 9, 1861 at Chusto Talasah as Cooper again encountered the fleeing unionists and meted out more punishment during a standoff. Then, the day after Christmas, a Confederate force led by Col. James M. McIntosh attacked Opothleyahola at Chustenalah.

Stripped of their belongings and in dire straits because of winter snow storms, the remaining troops, women and children escaped toward Kansas. Some died then or later on because of the harsh conditions.

That first battle took a lasting toll on local Creeks. It was just a prelude of what would follow as Native Americans became more involved in the hostilities.

Cherokee Chief John Ross also had signed an alliance with the Confederacy in 1861 in order to avoid disunity within his tribe and among the Indian Territory tribal members. Less than a year later, Ross and part of the National Council concluded that the agreement had proved disastrous and things would get worse.

In the summer of 1862, Ross removed the tribal records to Union-held Kansas and then proceeded to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Lincoln. Cherokees favoring the Confederate States elected Stand Waite as their chief.

Waite, who already had a turbulent history in the tribe, had become a general in the Confederate Army and a key leader in securing Indian Territory and its resources for the cause of the South. Incidentally, he would be the last Confederate general to surrender to Union forces.

Meanwhile, Sapulpa himself also had joined the Confederate Army and would serve for three years in the Civil War.

Sapulpa also loaned the Confederacy $1,000 in gold. According to Pete Eagan's 'Sapulpa, OK! The Greatest City in the Known World,' the family still had the note in 1924.

Sapulpa was wounded in the battle of Elk Creek near Checotah. He lost everything because of the war – his store, home, buildings and livestock. That was true of all the Creeks.

The Creek Nation was devastated by the Civil War. After 30 years of establishing themselves in their new homeland following forced removal from their homes in Mississippi Territory, the Creeks would have to start over again.

In 1868, Sapulpa was part of the reunifying leadership of the tribe.

He was elected to the House of Kings and remained in this position until his death.

The Creek Nation had two legislative bodies, the House of Kings and the House of Warriors.

Around 1872, Sapulpa opened another store in his home. Eagan's book says some believe the location was on East Taft where the Church of God campus is now. Sapulpa is buried in the small cemetery just south of the church property on Division St.

On the Daughters of American Revolution monument, he is reverently referred to as 'leader.'

Ironically, a few years after the Civil War the name 'Chief' (probably spoken in derision by railroaders) was forever attached to Sapulpa -- a title of honor fitting for anyone able to pull things together again after the Civil War that ripped the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma.

See part 1 in the March 15 edition for source material and information about the author. See part 2 in April 1

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

VHOPVKV - Measurements

HAKKUCE — Teaspoon
VKERKUCE — Pint
VTARKV — Pound
HAKKV RVKKO — Tablespoon
SESKETV — Cup
VKERKV RVKKO — Acre
AHOPAKUCE — Inch
SATKV RVKKO — Acre

E H U K K K K H K K H O K R V O K K
E T K K K O S H A K K V R V K K O P
K A H A K K U C V K R K V K V V A O
K H A K K U C E S V V T V K U H R S
V T O V U K K V K R E R H C V A C O
V V E H K E T R V K V S K K V K O K
K H R O R V E K S K K V T A R K V V
E O A P K K T E R A A U R K K V K V
R P O A V A S E K K K A K K E R K K
K A V K S H K S R C K E K K K V A V
U K K U V V A A K O K R E K H K V A
C U K C S A T K V R V K K O K T A V
E O R E E V V S E S K E T V A T H O
K E K H H K T K V K T K V K E R K A
A V R V R A V U R H K A V C K K V V


2016
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
№42
MVSKOKE NATION FESTIVAL
CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX | OKMULGEE, OK
SATURDAY, JUNE 4
3:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 10-12
8:00 AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah
FRIDAY, JUNE 17
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_ADULT
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
8:00 Tennis Tournament—Hawthorne Park,
1237 N. Okmulgee Avenue, Okmulgee
SUNDAY, JUNE 19
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
THURSDAY, JUNE 23
5:00PM Living Legends—Mvskoke Dome
6:30PM Stomp Dance
FRIDAY, JUNE 24
8:00AM Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
11AM-5PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAIMENT_BJ THOMAS
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_LEE GREENWOOD
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY, JUNE 25
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_YOUTH
—Mvskoke Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_YOUTH
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
9AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Mike Berryhill Memorial Bow Shoot_ADULT
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
3-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mvskoke Dome
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_BLUES TRAVELER
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_BRET MICHAELS
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT
SUNDAY, JUNE 26
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
All events occur at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted.
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
Live Entertainment
LEE GREENWOOD
BJ THOMAS
BRET MICHAELS
BLUES TRAVELER
ENTER YOUR TEAMS INTO THE SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND REPRESENT YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY/BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION IN THE PARADE!
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Native Gilcrease museum director has expansive plans



Internet image

Pepper Henry talks progress, more outreach

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It has been over a year since the first Native American to oversee Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum assumed the director position and James Pepper Henry is working to bring the facility, Tulsa community and local tribes closer together.

Henry is an enrolled citizen of the Kaw tribe and of Muscogee (Creek) heritage. He brings life-long experience in museum work, directing such institutions as the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Anchorage's Museum at the Rasmusson Center and working at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Henry took some time from his schedule April 13 to speak with 'Mvskoke Radio' host Gary Fife about that career and shared some observations on one of Tulsa's cultural landmarks.

Here are excerpts from that interview.

MR: You've been heading up this incredible museum for just over a year now. When I think of the museum's housing the major collections of American Indian art and history, this is one of the pillars.

Of course, you have the National Museum on the mall in Washington, and there are other collections like the Heard. You were actually connected with those institutions. Now tell me what was that like?

JPH: First of all, it's a great honor for me to be executive director of the Gilcrease Museum, especially considering the fact that Thomas Gilcrease himself was Muscogee (Creek) Indian.

I've been in the museum field for close to 30 years now and when I was coming up through the ranks, interested in working in museums, there weren't a lot of people of Native heritage working in museums. So, it was a challenge to try and break into the museum field at that point.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to start on a new endeavor back in the 1990s and that was the National Museum of the American Indian. I am one of the few folks out there who that has worked at all the NMAI facilities.

That was a great opportunity for me as a young man to be involved in that project, which is amazing that the National Museum of the American Indian is the only monument to indigenous peoples that is in Washington, D.C.

MR: That's one way of pointing to the unique relationship between Native Americans and the federal government?

JPH: Absolutely. For so many years, their interpretation of American Indian culture and particularly, material culture was interpreted by non-Natives. In fact, my grandparents, who I grew up with, they wouldn't even be allowed to go into the museum to see the items associated with their own tribes.

It was only until, probably, the 1980s or the early 1990s that American Indians were actually brought to the table to be a part of the interpretation of their own cultures.

It really was kind of a closed world for American Indians—the museum world.

When you think about it, museums haven't been happy places for American Indians. It's a reminder of what we've lost, as a people. The spoils of war, the things that have been taken away from us, the things that have been put on display and reinterpreted and misinterpreted.

Only in the last 20 years, have American Indians been invited back and actually taking charge now of the conversation and the content and the interpretation of that content.

That's why it's exciting for me to come back to Oklahoma after 20-plus years and be the director of the Gilcrease Museum.

MR: Where are we in that process? Are we still at the starting line? Has that wall cracked?

JPH: We've made a lot of progress in the last 20 years. Here at Gilcrease in particular, I know that the museum has made a concerted effort to consult with the cultures that are represented here in this museum. We're not slowing down.

As we think about the reinterpretation of our collections and of our archive, we certainly will be talking to the other cultures that are involved. Not just the Native, but we're in North Tulsa, there's a large African-American community, the race riots happened not too far from here in the 1920s. So, I think we have a real opportunity to tell a much more holistic story of Oklahoma, Tulsa, in particular.

Before, museums had been restricted to people with academic degrees, Ph.D's, masters' degrees. Those were the folks that were allowed in the doors to do the research, not people from communities.

That's all changed now and we invite to them come in and have access to the collection. If somebody of Native descent wants to see items associated with their culture, then all they have to do is give us a call. We'll make an appointment to get direct access to these items.

MR: I had a friend in Minneapolis who said, 'Who do think they got it from?'

JPH: Exactly. I remember talking to George Horse Capture years ago, and he said a lot of these researchers would come to the tribes and into the community and wouldn't be there for very long searching for knowledge and he said, 'You know, we didn't tell them everything.'

MR: Did your heritage play any part in your being selected?

JPH: I like to think that my experience is what got me the job here, almost 30 years in the museum field, working in Native and non-Native museums. But I think the fact that I have family connections here in Tulsa, Oklahoma and my heritage is really here in Oklahoma. I'm sure that had a factor in the selection, having those cultural connections and those family connections here made me much more familiar with Oklahoma.



Submission
Kaw/Muscogee director of Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Okla., James Pepper Henry.

MR: Do think the museum's presence and focus and now you being here to direct it has changed the perceptions of Tulsans and Oklahomans about Native People?

JPH: It has at one level and it hasn't at another level. You can still see and feel some prejudices and some tension there, but so many people now, I know, have Native blood in Oklahoma. So I think things are changing but they haven't completely changed yet. There are still some barriers that need to be broken down.

It's still difficult for Native peoples to get to the upper echelons of different kinds of businesses and professions.

There are very few of us of who are directors of museum across the country.

But most of the people who are directors of museums across the country, thinking of Rick West at the Autry Museum and Kevin Gover at the National Museum of the American Indian and Patsy Phillips at the Institute of American Indian Art Museum—all of those folks are from Oklahoma, Oklahoma tribes.

For some reason, Oklahoma is cranking out a lot of museum professionals. I think that's great.

MR: Have the visitors here understood what's there before them and do they make the distinctions between the different cultures?

JPH: Oklahoma has such a diverse population of Native peoples, 39 federally recognized tribes. As we think about reimagining Gilcrease Museum and working on a new interpretive plan, I think we can do a much better job of showing the diversity of Native cultures here.

Right now, our display is a little bit antiquated. Our focus, right now, is to show, to articulate to our visitors that Native Americans are still here. A lot of people still have the impression that we are extinct, that we went the way of the buffalo, that we're stuck in the 19th century.

Our goal is to show the diversity of the tribes in Oklahoma at Gilcrease Museum. But to also show that history from a contemporary perspective, kind of working from the present back, rather than starting from earlier times and moving forward.

I think it's important to have that message and show our visitors that we're still here, we have vibrant cultures here in Oklahoma. We often times live in two worlds. We have our Native world, life, ways. Then we have our secular life, ways, trying to fit into two different worlds here.

MR: Has the museum taken it upon itself to work with any tribes on any projects or perhaps on any planning board?

JPH: Well, we have several projects coming up including an exhibition on the arrival of the Cherokee people on the Trail of Tears. That exhibit will open next year. We're also planning an exhibition on Plains Indians and working with some of the Plains tribes that are here in Oklahoma.

But, as we think of the interpretive plan moving forward, I would like to see all the tribes here in Oklahoma represented in a newly reenvisioned Gilcrease. But, in particular, Tulsa's an interesting place because you've got the convergence of three tribes here. You've got the Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Osage Nation and they all kind of intersect right here in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I think those three tribes should be highlighted because we're here in that territory. But, certainly the other tribes that are here in Oklahoma will certain have a place in the new Gilcrease Museum.

We had talked about the new American Indian Cultural Center and Museum being constructed in Oklahoma City. Now that pieces are falling into place to finish that project and we wish to have a relationship, a more formal relationship with that museum where we can share exhibitions.

I've talked to them about loaning some items that we have here in our collection to that facility which helps advertise Gilcrease Museum in Oklahoma City, but also helps flesh out their exhibits because they don't have a collection. So I think we can help each other there.

Certainly one of our goals is, certainly to educate our citizens about the rich heritages and I put plural because of not just one heritage, but the richness of our full diversity of our communities with American Indians, the African-American community.

The largest growing community in the Tulsa community is the Latino community and I certainly think that we can be relevant to that community as well.

Really, as you were talking about there was a little bit of an elitist bent to the perception that this was an exclusive club for only a certain group of people. I really want to see the Gilcrease Museum become part of 'Tulsa's living room.'

That we are a center for civic engagement, that we are a place for dialogue for showcasing the diversity our community. Also bringing some of the best exhibitions in the world to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

MR: If visitors come in, what sort of displays or items is there on the Muscogee (Creek) people is available here?

JPH: We have quite a few artists represented, Muscogee (Creek) artists represented here at Gilcrease. Jerome Tiger is one of my personal favorites, and we have quite a few artists represented. When I think about tourism, I want people to think of us as a launching point to go a little bit deeper into the story of the tribes here in Oklahoma.

I know, Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been working on restoring the Council House there in Okmulgee.

There's been some efforts to restore the Council House back to its original glory back in the day.

When people come to Gilcrease, I would like to see other opportunities for them to explore the other cultures in the area and advertise what Muscogee (Creek) Nation is doing.

CARL MARTIN



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Carl Martin passed from this life on April 23 at the age of 93. He was born in Muskogee to March and Minnie (Chisholm) Martin in February 1923.

They lived in the Broken Arrow-Coweta area. He was a full blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen of the Beaver Clan and Lochapoka Tribal Town. He was raised by his mother Minnie and step-father Jim Chalakee on a farm east of Broken Arrow near Springtown Church. His grandparents were Anderson and Rosa (Fulotka) Chisholm who lived near Haikey Chapel and Johnson and Susannah (Carr) Martin of Coweta.

Carl's first language was Creek. He attended the Euchee Indian Boarding School in Sapulpa. At age eight, he attended Progressive School, and he graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 1943. He was a good athlete and loved playing football for the Broken Arrow Tigers.

Carl's Christian education began in area Indian Methodist churches, Haikey Chapel, Broken Arrow Indian Methodist, and the church across from his home, Springtown Indian Methodist. As an adult, he was a member of the Broken Arrow Assembly of God Church.

In 1944, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the U.S.S. Washington, a battleship, which was involved in the bombardment of the Central Phillipines, Luzon, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Taiwan and Tokyo. He was honorably discharged on New Year's Day, 1946.

Upon his discharge, he married Betty Patterson Justus. Together, they raised three children, Sheryl, Jim and Betty Sue. Following WWII, he completed a two year course in diesel mechanics at Okmulgee Tech and then was employed at MK&O Bus Lines in Tulsa for two years before moving to the postal service. He worked in Broken Arrow's post office from 1950-1974 and was postmaster in Cleveland at the time of his retirement in 1987.

Baseball was Carl's passion throughout his life. He liked to play ball as a boy on Sunday afternoons at a field near his home. There were many who shared his passion, and in the 1950s, a group of them enjoyed playing on a 'town' team. They had to travel to find other teams to play and even played at the prison in McAlester. When his son Jim was just a small boy, Carl came up with an idea to have a boy's league in Broken Arrow. He managed to get others interested and organized little league baseball in Broken Arrow. He coached teams for ten years, including American Legion ball. For many years, he served as a volunteer director of the program.

His wife Betty preceded Carl in death in 1992, and daughter Sheryl (Simms) followed in 2014. A granddaughter, Tonya Martin, also preceded Carl in death in 1967.

He is survived by his: children, James Martin and wife Ada of Ashburn, Va., and Betty Sue Gerber and husband Gary of Broken Arrow; grandchildren, Anne Simms Johnson and husband, Mike along with John Simms, all of Broken Arrow, Tika Martin and husband Willard of San Mateo, Calif., Kevin Martin and wife Tiffany of Fredericksburg, Va., Kelly Martin Wilson and husband Stephan of Fate, Texas, Shannon Martin of Ashburn, Va., Jennifer Gerber Day and husband Bill of Broken Arrow and Gary M Gerber of Lakewood, Colo., and great-grandchildren, Brittany, Sidney, Bailey, Maddie, Brenna, Ben, Ava and Zoe.

MCN Scholarship pageant set June 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant has been set for June 4 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Ominplex in Okmulgee.

The doors open at 2:30 p.m. and the event starts at 3 p.m.

Women's conference set June 4

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The Elm Tree Women's Conference has been set for 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., June 4 at Elm Tree Baptist Church in Tahlequah. For more information call: 918-772-0201.

Benefit Powwow set for Oct. 1

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fifth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow is set for Oct. 1 at the Student Life Center, 2412 E. Shawnee Bypass, Muskogee OK. For event information call: 918-682-2586.

Arbor Care seeking citizens to take wood chips

MCN Arbor Care/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Arbor Care Department is looking for citizens in need of woodchips at their homes for flowerbeds, gardens, etc. These chips are from a variety of different trees that have been cut down and ran through a commercial chipper. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact one of the numbers below.

Please note that we must have a good access point to deliver and dump the chips. Roads, driveways, etc. must be accessible for our trucks to get in and out of safely and without getting stuck.

For more information, one of the following can assist you: Oscar Hicks at: 918-752-8577, James Hicks at: 918-752-8014 or Phil Booker at: 918-732-7794.

Farewell from Miss MCN

Shannon Barnett/*Miss MCN*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hesci! Shannon Lynne Barnett cv hocefkv tos. Cvckvlke Kay momen Daniel Barnett. Cvpusulke Dicey momen Ed Barnett, Margaret and the late Artussee Fields.

I am the 2015-2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I am so thankful for all the amazing opportunities I have had during my reign. I loved getting to share the Mvskoke language and our culture at many events all over Oklahoma and out of state. It has truly been an honor getting to represent MCN.

Mvto vmvniceckat!

Thank you to everyone that helped me during this past year, especially my parents. My family, chaperones, and pageant committee has made this past year full of great experiences and opportunities that I will never forget.

Mvto!



Submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The second annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H speech contest was held May 3 at Morris schools where 29 contestants gave a total of 43 speeches and represented six of the eight counties in the MCN, almost double the amount from last year. Maddison Long from Hanna won a laptop drawing. MCN 4-H Manager Billy Haltom would like to thank the judges and Morris Middle School principle Monte Womack for making the event possible.

NativeVision™
20th Annual Sports & Life Skills Camp
June 9th-11th, 2016
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
&
Okmulgee High School
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
SPORTS & AGE GROUPS
Lacrosse 7-18
Soccer 7-18
Running 9-18
Volleyball 11-18
Basketball 11-18
Football 12-18
FREE EVENT
*** TRANSPORTATION NOT PROVIDED***
APPLICATIONS DUE Monday, June 6th
Register Online: www.nativevision.org
OR
Email nativevisioncamp@mcn-nsn.gov for a copy of the application
Questions contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Center & Archives Office
(918)549-2434

Splash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

date to provide some shade.

NCA 15-142 was passed during the June 20, 2015 Council session appropriating $99,999 to fund the project. He said project organizers chose a splash pad over a swimming pool for liability reasons.

"Through Risk Management, they agreed that this here has a limited liability as compared to a pool," Jennings said. "You would have to have a lifeguard and your insurance increases also."

Plans are to have the splash pad operating from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. during the summer.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Office Manager Ryan Logan said it will be open through the season based on how Oklahoma weather changes towards the fall. He said it will have to be winterized for the cold season.

The water will come from the regular Okmulgee water system, be treated by that system and used only once. Logan said MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department will include splash pad as part of their regular patrols of the MCN grounds.

Logan is pleased with the outcome.

"Everyone has had a good response and parents are calling to inquire about its availability," he said.

"You see them they're enjoying it and that's what the whole things about."

— MCN National Council Rep. James Jennings

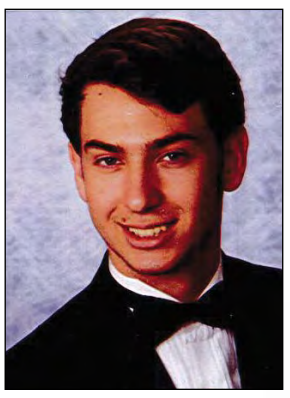
Jennings gauged the response of opening day attendees concluding that the idea met expectations.

"It is, you know, you hear everybody saying, 'We got to do something for our youth, our elders.' Well, this is part of our youth right here," he said. "You can look at them and see how happy they are."

MCN Tourism and Recreation can be reached at: 918-732-7992.

The Muscogee Nation News congratulates 2016 MCN graduates

Jacob Lee Adams



Family: Paula Lee, mother – Emilee Adams, sister – Eddie and Rita Lee, grandparents – Catherine Evans, great-grandmother

School: Deerfield Beach High School, Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Clan: Turtle

Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee and Euchee, Jacob is graduating with a 4.3 GPA and is ranked 93 out of 522 students in his graduating class. Over the past two years, he also attended Broward Community College, earning 18 credit hours. Jacob attended Boys State in summer 2015 and graduating with 266 community service hours. Jacob has been a member of: Art Club - vice president, Drama Club - improv captain, Engineering Club and the National Honor Society.

He has been accepted to Florida Atlantic University where he will study mechanical engineering and his career plans are to design and build prosthetics.

George H. Alexander



School: Institute of American Indian Arts

Degree: Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio arts

Bailee RaeAnn Allen



Parent: Taryn Allen

School: Muskogee High School

Clan: Nokosvlke (Bear)

Tribal Town: Kvssetv Tribal Town

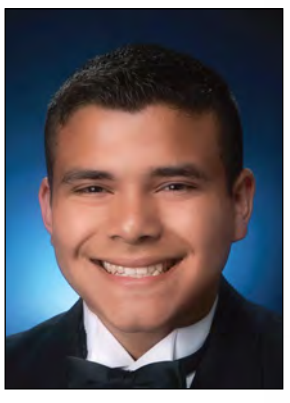
Church: Fife Indian United Methodist

Ceremonial Ground: Polecat

2013 Miss Muscogee Indian Community,
2013 MCN Lighthorse Explorers Post 106 sr. explorer, 2013-2014 Oklahoma Council for Indian Education Student rep., 2013-2014 Muskogee Public Schools Miss N.A.S.A., 2014 Mvskoke Women's Leadership High School Student of the Year Award, 2014 Muskogee Lady Roughers Best Attitude Award (basketball), 2015-2016 Fife Indian United Methodist Church Youth president, 2016 Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Person Under 25 for the NE Region.

Bailee plans on attending the College of the Muscogee Nation this fall.

Geronimo L. Angeles



Parents: Jennifer and Peter Angeles

School: River City High School

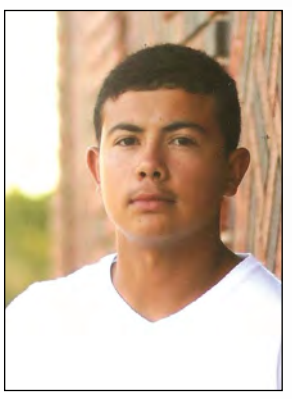
Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Thopthlocco

Geronimo participated in wrestling throughout high school, helping his team make it to its first ever Wrestling League Champions in 2015, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He is also an active Boy Scout with Troop One in Sacramento, Calif., and is soon to be an eagle scout. Geronimo will attend the University of California, Santa Cruz this fall.

It's with great honor; the family of Geronimo Angeles announces his graduation on June 2, which includes his older brother Victor Fuentes, his maternal grandmother Bonnie Sue Manriquez (Harjo) and his late great-grandparents Johnson Harjo and Dorothy Ayers (Robinson) of Okemah.

Brandon Lee Autaubo



Parents: Rodney and Gayle Autaubo

School: Lincoln Christian High School - Tulsa

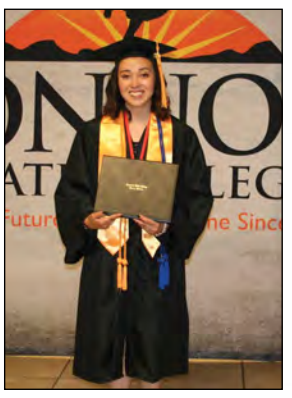
Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Concharty

Church: Church On The Move - Tulsa

Brandon will continue his education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in the fall.

Rachel Elizabeth Bell



Family: Roger and Tammy Bell of Muskogee – parents, Kirby and Lillie Boen of Wainwright and Bob and Louise Bell of Muskogee - grandparents

School: Connors State Collegee

Degree: Associate of Arts in summer 2016

Rachel will attend Northeastern State University in the fall. She plans to major in early childhood education. She would like to be a preschool teacher. Rachel enjoys photography and working with children. She is currently a part-time toddler teacher at a daycare. Her accomplishments include president's honor roll, dean's honor roll, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Dakota Cody Berryhill



Parents: Charlotte Berryhill, Sapulpa

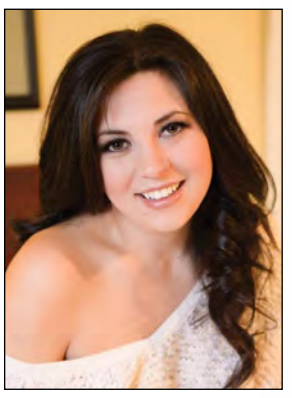
School: Northeastern State University

Degree: Bachelor of Science in criminal justice with a concentration in homeland security

Clan: Wind

Fall 2016 dean's honor roll, Spring 2016 president's honor roll

Jane Elizabeth Boldrey



Family: Cathlene Dickenson-Boldrey – parent, Louis Dickenson - grandparent

School: Eastern Washington University, Bellevue, Wash.

Degree: Bachelor of Arts degree in children's studies with a minor in sociology

Recognition on the dean's list for earning a 4.0 GPA for five consecutive quarters and graduating with honors. Throughout her time at Eastern, Jane both interned and volunteered for the YWCA of King/Snohomish County, specifically working to help at-risk populations gain equitable access to basic needs such as food security, stable housing and employment.

Post-graduation, Jane plans to continue working with these populations, specifically supporting children and families living in poverty. She plans to continue with school and earn a master's in social work. Jane and her family currently live in Redmond, Wash. and she is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

Profiles were edited according to guidelines set forth in the form published in the 'Muscogee Nation News' and other Mvskoke Media outlets along with the editor's discretion per policy published in the box on page two of every edition. The top portion for basic information was limited to 50 words and the accomplishments section at the bottom was limited to 100.

Shannon DeAnn Buchanan (Patterson)



Family: Daniel Buchanan, husband - Robert and Jackie Patterson (Fry), parents - Aidan and Nacona, children

School: Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow Campus

Degree: Bachelors of Science in criminal justice and legal studies

Tribal Town: Eufaula Canadian

Shannon graduated with high honors, Magna Cum Laude, with a 3.669 GPA. Shannon has been named on the dean's honor roll five times at NSU. Shannon is passionate about tribal issues and intends to complete her Master's in indigenous people's law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law in Norman beginning in August.

Shannon currently works for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program as a victim's advocate.

Brianna Renee Candioto



Family: Connie Dearman Lake, Kenneth Lake and Allen Candioto – parents, Walter and Mary (Fish) Dearman as well as Dennis and Carolyn Eddleman - grandparents

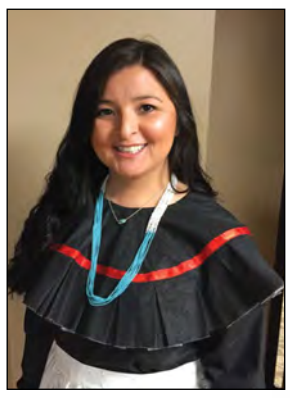
School: Sapulpa High School

Clan: Bear

Brianna holds a 3.8 GPA and is ranked 60th in her graduating class of 347. Bria is also attending Central Tech for administrative assistant and has been a concurrent student at TCC and OSU-IT for two years. She is a member of the Business Professionals of America and serves as vice-president. Brianna is on the TCC dean's honor roll and has achieved senior academic letters from SHS.

Bria has been a member of the National Honor Society. She has completed WorkKeys testing and received the silver seal. Brianna plans on attending Northeastern State University this fall majoring in physical therapy.

Kathalene Suzanne Carden



Family: Jeff and Beverly Carden – parents, Sue Morgan - grandmother

School: University of Oklahoma

Degree: Master of Arts in Native American studies

Clan: Wind

Kathalene is a licensed registered nurse who works at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Her passion is to improve the health care of Oklahomans and eliminate health disparities.

Michaela Lynn Carr



Family: Anthony and Shanh-Dea McIntosh, Corey and Aimee Carr – parents, Craig and Debbie Mosquito, Judy Carr and the Late Johnny Carr – grandparents.

School: Kiefer High School

Clan: Fuswvlke (Bird)

She will complete her medical assisting program at Central Vo Tech in June, where she is already certified in home health care, long term health care, CPR, first aid and as a CNA.

Michaela lettered for four years in basketball, four in fast-pitch softball, four in slow-pitch softball, and one in cross country. She is a recipient of many tribal and Native American scholarships. She completed her high school degree with a 4.0.

She will attend College of the Muscogee Nation in the fall and finish at Oklahoma State University. She is majoring in nursing to become an R.N.

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke



Family: Colonel Alan Clarke – husband, Petty Officer Nicholas Clarke, Harrison, Christian and Evelyn Clarke – children, Jack and Sharon Sullivan - parents, Chapley and Juanita Sullivan - grandparents

School: University of Washington, Seattle in June 2015

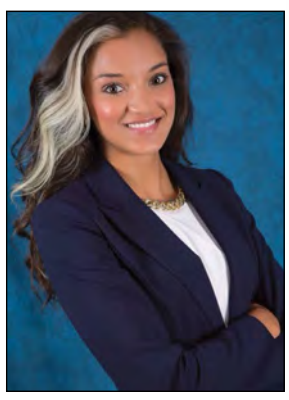
Degree: Doctorate in philosophy

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Fish Pond

She has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at DePauw University, where she will teach Native American philosophy and conduct research on issues of diversity.

DeEtta Cravens



Family: Ike and Renee Cravens – parents, Rachel Anne Berryhill, daughter of Jake Berryhill and Leah Jane Yarboroughm - great-great-grandmother.

School: Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Degree: Master's in public policy

Prior to graduate school, Cravens was awarded the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship by the U.S. Department of State. The national fellowship was awarded to 20 students from underrepresented and minority groups. In addition to funding two years of graduate studies, the fellowship provides a five-year placement in the U.S. Foreign Service, which is where Cravens will begin her career in public diplomacy.

Carlie Ann Cumpton



Family: John and Stephanie Cumpton - parents. Carlie is a member of the Burgess/ Harris family of Henryetta.

School: Clear Springs High School, League City, Texas

Clan: Fox, from her great-great-grandfather, the late Daniel Burgess

Tribal Town: Cussetah

She will attend college at UT Tyler in Texas and will play softball at the university. She has been on the honor roll, has received All-District honors her sophomore, junior and senior years and was voted MVP of her softball team her sophomore year. She is involved with TET and works with elementary children through this program daily. She has also been a member of TAFE, student council and the National Technical Honor Society. She is pursuing a degree in elementary education in college at Tyler.

Elijah Cate Cusher



Parents: Randy Cusher and Elizabeth Cook

School: Okmulgee High School

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Newtown United Methodist

Baseball, golf, FCA, Letter 'O'
He plans to attend OSU/IT for an associate's degree and then transfer to OU for a degree in sports management.

Korey Dale Dearman



Parents: Amber Pascale and Jeremy Dearman

School: Preston High School

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Restore Church

Korey was a member of the Preston High School Band and Jazz Band, where he played the trombone. During his time with Band and Jazz, he made four state appearances. Korey was also a member of the Preston Academic Team and very active in his church youth group. He plans to attend OSU-IT to study management.

Zachary Lee Denson



Family: CW3 Christopher and Shannon Denson, Harker Heights, Texas – parents, Sharon Lee Frazier and the late Carl Frazier, Oklahoma City and Solomon and Alice Grayson Lee - maternal grandparents, Tom and Pamela Denson, Norman – paternal grandparents

School: Harker Heights High School, Harker Heights

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Arbeka

Church: Glorieta Baptist Church

Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Zachary is a member of the Killeen Explorers, which is involved with the Killeen Police Department. As a member of the Explorers, he is learning about law enforcement. Zachary is planning on joining the military after graduation, either the Air Force or the Marines. His desire is to be in a position of leadership.

Sarah Elizabeth Dill



Parents: Robyn and Mike Dill

School: Oklahoma City University School of Law

Degree: Juris Doctorate (J.D.) with American Indian law certificate

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Tuskegee

Sarah is an OCU Law merit scholar, a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education scholar, has made the OCU Law dean's list, is an Oklahoma Bar Association Indian Law Section Scholarship recipient, and is the 2016 Mvskoke Women's Leadership College student of the year. During her time at OCU Law, Sarah served as the OCU Native American Law Student's Association (NALSA) president, competed twice in the National NALSA Moot Court Competition and she has received recognition for outstanding pro bono volunteer hours. Sarah received her undergraduate degree with honors in 2013 from the University of Oklahoma.

Lori Dreiling



Family: Cherry and Janetta (Moore) Scott - parents, Duane Dreiling – husband, Jake and Kate - children

School: Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.

Church: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Webb City, Mo.

Degree: Masters of Science in human resource development

On the board of directors for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, vice-chair of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, treasurer of the Carl Junction Athletic Booster Club, President of the CJ Elite AAU Basketball Club, a member of the Industrial Management Council, a national and local member of SHRM and ATD, an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Webb City, Mo., and regular public speaker on nearby campuses and for community groups. Named as a Most Influential Woman in Joplin, Mo., in 2014. Thank you to MCN Higher Education Administration for assisting me in completing my master's.

Gunner Lee James Fullbright



Parents: Natasha and Andy Fullbright

School: Okemah High School and Wes Watkins Technology Center

Degree: Multimedia specialist/visual communications

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Skyview Baptist Church

Ceremonial Ground: Nuyaka

Top 10, perfect attendance, Student of the Month, All-District wide receiver, outstanding completer, outstanding student of the year, superintendents honor roll, silver in Work Keys, gold star ambassador, National Technical Honors Society, Nation Honors Society, Boy's State delegate, Business Professionals of America and top of class.

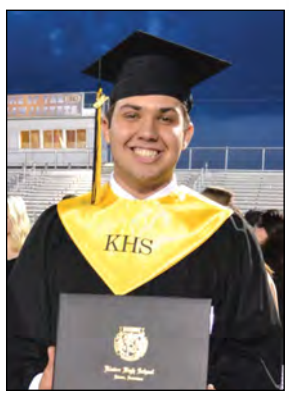
Marvin Goudeau Jr.



School: Morris High School

Marvin will be graduating with honors. He received a full scholarship to Bacone College, where he will also play basketball. He will pursue his goals in sports medicine and physical therapy. He will continue to reach for the stars in the open skies!

Keegan Rain Granger



Family: Kokee Spring Beaver Granger and the late, Joseph Granger II – parents, Vance and Barbara Beaver – grandparents, the late Stella and Amos Beaver of Broken Arrow – great-grandparents

School: Kinder High School in Kinder, La.

Tribal Town: Lochapoka

Church: Descendant of Ben Haikey and Jennetta of Haikey Chapel

Kash Adam Hale



Family: Mark Hale, Lois and Brian Sanford – parents, Sal and Debbie Levatino, Lewis and Janie Bohm, Anthony Sr. and Tabatha Hale – grandparents, Bernice Bear Watson, Brent Sr. and Bernice Harjo Hale, Robert and JoAnn Baum – great-grandparents

School: Rock Springs High School - Rock Springs, Wyo.

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Tuckabatchee

Church: Rock Springs Christian Church

Chase M. Hill



Parents: Amy and Chris Hill

School: Preston High School

Clan: Bird

Church: Belvin Baptist

Ceremonial Ground: Greenleaf/ Muddy Water

Accomplishments/Awards: Graduating

Sue Ann (Clark) Hughart



Parents: Bill and Barbara Clark of Okmulgee

School: Northeastern State University, Tahlequah

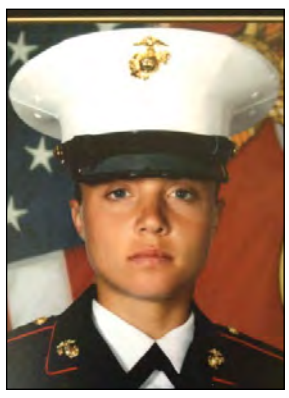
Degree: Master of Science in speech language pathology

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Koweta

Sue is from Checotah and is a member of the Checotah Indian Community. She would like to say 'Mvto!' to Muscogee (Creek) Nation for their support throughout her education. She hopes to work with the adult/geriatric population in the speech field.

Haley Hughes



Family: Shawn and Mary Hughes - parents, Marine Tanner Hughes - sibling, Margaret Edwards of Pryor, Buddy and Linda Hughes of Big Cabin, Larry and Cindy Blackwell of McAllen, Texas - grandparents, Estelle Hughes and the late George Hughes of Checotah - great-grandparents

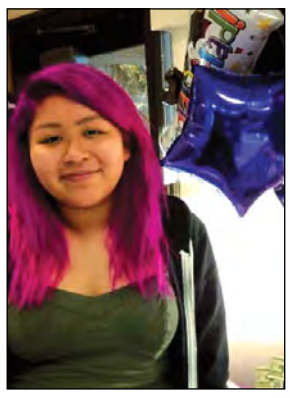
School: U.S. Marine Corps boot camp in Parris Island, S.C.

Clan: Raccoon Clan

Church: First Baptist Church in Pryor

Haley Hughes received the Molly Marine Award in her platoon, which is presented to one female chosen by her platoon, that has demonstrated qualities of an exemplary Marine.

Tia Lenae James



Family: Dominic James and Anissa Wesley of Tulsa – parents, Calvin and Letha James of Tahlequah and Richard and the late Tsianina Wesley of Preston - grandparents

School: Margaret Hudson Program

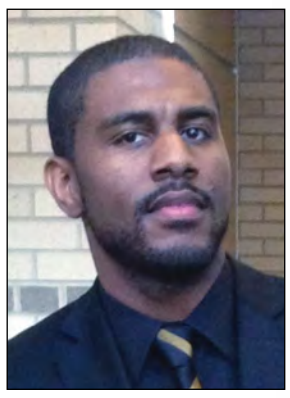
Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Arbeka

Church: Grave Creek Indian Baptist

She received her high school diploma while balancing the responsibilities of a mother and student. She has one son, 11-month old Avery. Tia's family is extremely proud of her and all that she has accomplished and wishes her continued success in the future.

Cameron Johnson



Family: Ray and Gloria Johnson, Fairfield, Calif. - parents, Dr. Shaunda R. Johnson, Hampton, Calif. - sibling

School: Tennessee State University

Degree: Master's of public health

Cameron has received several awards for dedication to community service and some of his recent significant accomplishments include serving as a research intern and graduate assistant at the Institute for Research on Men's Health at Vanderbilt University; research internships with American University, the Health Plan of California and California Assemblywoman Marika Yamada. Cameron's future plans include pursuing a Ph.D. in public health at Vanderbilt University. Cameron was born in Vallejo, Calif., in 1990. His parents are extremely appreciative for what Muscogee (Creek) Nation has done in supporting their children throughout their educations.

Brianna Jones



Parents: Melinda Miller and Tom Jones

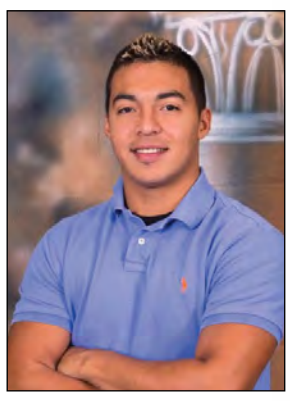
School: Westmoore High School in Moore

Tribal Town: Alabama-Quassarte

Clan: Bear

Brianna has received her certified nurse assistant (CNA) certification and plans to pursue a nursing degree in college.

Dakota Lyn Kahbeah



Family: Misty Renee (Bunner) and Eugene Kahbeah of Okmulgee – parents, Patricia Bunner of Morris – maternal grandparent, Terri Carney and Robert Kahbeah of Okmulgee and Priscilla and Lawrence Kahbeah – paternal grandparents

School: Sequoyah High School, Tahlequah

Clan: Wind

Church: New Beginnings Baptist, Henryetta

Ceremonial Ground: Fish Pond

Football, basketball and powerlifting. Powerlifting tournaments: first place, 475 pounds; second place, 505 pounds, which made him eligible to start state. Second place, OFBCA State Powerlifting Championship and rings in Norman. Sequoya school has never had any history for powerlifting sport. He will attend NSU this fall semester to take classes towards sports medicine.

Kelli Anne Elizabeth Kernell



Parents: Roger Kernell and Cynthia Johnson

School: Eufaula Dorm

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Greenleaf

Church: Circle of Life Native Fellowship

Simeon Lee Jr.



Family: Simeon Lee and Elsie Tecumseh – parents, Theresa – wife, Solomon, Simeon and Samuel - sons

School: Chaminade University

Degree: Bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice with a minor in psychology

Clan: Alligator

Church: Hickory Ground #2

Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa

After high school, Simeon joined the U.S. Marine Corps. After over 12 years of service, he started back to college full time. He has maintained a 3.7 GPA in his final two years of school.

He recently accepted a position with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department and will begin his master's in criminal justice this summer. He was a recipient of the Corporal Joe Halley Scholarship for the spring 2016 semester.

Tyler D. Lena



Family: Ellen and David Lena. His brothers, sisters and two nephews are all proud of him.

School: Basic training, (MCRD), in San Diego, Calif., on Nov. 20, 2015

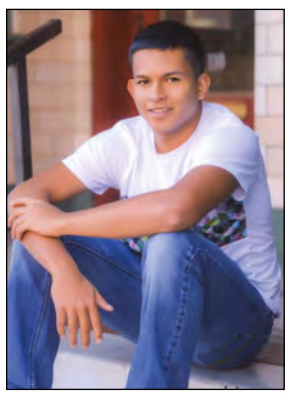
Clan: Wind

Church: Montesoma Baptist Church

The parents of Tyler D. Lena are proud to announce the completion of his basic training. Since then, he has completed rigorous training at Fort Sill in Lawton in which he is Pfc. Lena, Tyler D. With a 10-day leave almost gone, he is enjoying family, visiting friends and of course, eating all the ribs and peppers he can.

Of the Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations, Tyler was here for Mother's Day and his sister's graduation. He also enjoys watching movies and playing endless video games with his brother. Tyler will be stationed in Hawaii.

Isaiah Caine Lowe



Family: Rhonda and Del Beaver of Morris; Daniel George of Seminole – parents, late Lloyd and late Katherine Lowe of Holdenville; late R. Perry Beaver and Mariam Beaver of Morris - grandparents

School: Sequoyah High School, Tahlequah

Church: New Beginnings Baptist, Henryetta

Isaiah is a member of the Morris Creek Indian Community. His activities and accomplishments include: Academic Honor Roll, member of National Honor Society, Who's Who in America's High School, Sequoyah Indians Football for four years as a wide receiver, Sequoyah Indians powerlifting for two years and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He will attend the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall of 2016 majoring in chemistry-health sciences. He aspires to be a pharmacist giving back to the Native community, specifically the Mvskoke people.

Miniah Lowe



Parents: Corina Lowe and Alexander (Skip) Fields

School: Okmulgee High School

Clan: Deere

Tribal Town: Tallahassee

Church: Hickory Ground #2

Ceremonial Ground: Hickory Ground and Muddy Waters

Miniah has a 3.0 GPA and will attend College Of The Muscogee Nation in the fall of 2016.

Dimitri Mahee



Parents: Rajean Mahee and Eric Campbell

School: Northeastern State University

Degree: Bachelor of Science

Clan: Bog Potato

Tribal Town: Thlewathle

Church: Harvest Ministries

Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

I received a scholarship back in February 2012 from NAACP. I've had the IHS scholarship since July 2013. I went on a mission trip to Honduras back in July 2013. I am part of the oldest national honors society at NSU (RHO Theta Sigma), participated in Oklahoma Research Day back in spring 2015 at NSU. I am the first college graduate in my immediate family. I am attending dental school in the fall of 2017.

Kierra Alyessa Marshall



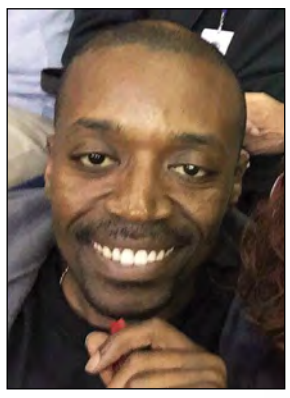
Parents: Timothy Harjo and Sharon Marshall

School: Eufaula Dorm

Clan: Bear

Church: Hickory Ground #1

Michael McBride



Parent: Erma McBride

School: University of Phoenix

Degree: Bachelor of Science in information technology

Michael's tribal name is Smiling Wolf and his grandfather is Willie B. Murphy.

Swift Lightening Roberts



Parents: Swift Wakeman, Cherrie Myers

School: Charles Page High School

Church: Life Church, Tulsa

From swift's teacher, Kendra Roulette, CPHS. If had to describe swift in one word it would be courageous! His courage in fighting cancer, the courage in finishing school and his courage in planning for an unknown future! His heart is bigger than anyone's I know and will push him to accomplish anything that is in his power to achieve. He was involved in student council and that with his friends Kylie and Madison, they have brought attention to the battle that pediatric cancer patients fight everyday...We are so proud of you swift! #SWIFTSTRONG
TRUST GOD

Hally Elizabeth Pembrook



Parents: Tammy and Albert Pembrook

School: University of Oklahoma

Tribal Town: Koweta

Clan: Wind (last known)

Graduating with distinction with a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting and finance from the Michael F. Price College of Business, member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Hanna Beta Phi Honor Sororities and held positions of vice president and treasurer for the Hanna Beta Phi Honor Sorority.

Marvin LaMel Phillips Jr.



Parents: Marvin Phillips Sr. and Felicia Marshall

School: Eufaula Dorm

Clan: Fvswv (Bird)

Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Eufaulagee

Accomplishments/Awards: Football and basketball varsity

Lilly S. Powell



Parents: Odette Freeman and Richard Lynn Powell

School: Preston High School

Clan: Alligator

Tribal Town: Coweta

Church: Newton United Methodist

Preston High School girls' basketball team 2012-2015. Maintained a 3+ GPA throughout high school and graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

MaKayla Ratajczyk



Parents: Chuck and Pam Ratajczyk

High School: Destiny Christian School

Church: Central Baptist Church

Tribal Town: Fish Pond

Honor roll graduate with a GPA 3.9, National Honors Society, cheerleader captain and residing senior class chaplain

Callie Rice



Family: Frank and Beth Rice – parents, David and Laseta Pruet formerly of Eufaula - grandparents

School: Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn.

Degree: Bachelor's in child development and family relations

Dakota Lynn Roberts



Parents: James Roberts, Bixby

School: Riverfield Country Day School

I am a member National Honors Society and have maintained the Raven's Honor Roll throughout high school. I am attending Oklahoma State University in the fall studying forensics science and law. My passion for science started in my childhood when my dad taught me about organics, animals and the study of life. Then, in the 10th grade I became interested in forensics sciences when I started watching Investigation Discovery and crime shows. I have volunteered at animal shelters, Tulsa Food Bank, Red Cross, and Iron Gate soup kitchen, which is associated with the Indian Health Care and Resource Center.

Brendan Eli Rolland



Family: Geoffrey and Tammie Rolland of Tulsa – parents, Judy Haumpy and the late Albert Rolland Jr. - grandparents

School: Bishop Kelley High School

Clan: Deer

Ceremonial Ground: Polecat

He is Yuchi, Muscogee (Creek) and Absentee Shawnee. He was on the honor roll all four years. He is an avid musician and athlete as well as being very active in his community. He was the captain of the drum line and captain of the lacrosse team. He accepted an offer to play lacrosse at Hendrix College in Arkansas, where he will major in biology in the fall. We are very proud of him and his many accomplishments.

Chivas Lee Smith



Parents: Troy Lee Smith and Doylinda Hively

School: North Lamar High School

Clan: Turtle

Church: Pickett Chapel, Sapulpa

Ceremonial Ground: Polecat

Achieved his 7018 AWS welding certification position 3G and his TIG AWS welding certification. In his spare time, he like going to stompdances, sweat lodges, peyote meetings and working on his NDN truck.

Jacob Mitchell Velez



Parents: Nathaniel Velez and Surry Williams

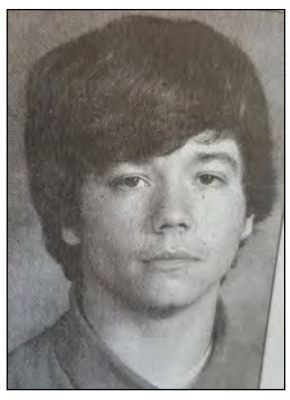
School: Eufaula Dorm

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Arbeka

Church: Grave Creek

Micka R. Walker



Family: Mary Legrand – mother, Mackinze Walker – sister, Joe and Jean LeGrand – maternal grandparents, Robert and Joann Walker – paternal grandparents, Pearline Day – maternal great-grandmother

School: Okmulgee High School

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Arbeka

Church: Bellingham Baptist

While in high school, Micka played band one year and baseball three years. During the summer, he plays fast-pitch with Big Eagle Express.

Micka's future plans are to attend OSUIT and major in heating and air.

Maysa Zoda White



Parents: Paige White of Sapulpa and Nikki Meyers of Drumright

School: Drumright High School

Clan: Turtle

Tribal Town: Kellyville

Church: Pickett Chapel, Sapulpa

Ceremonial Ground: Polecat

Seth Nelson Winters



Family: Mika Winters – daughter, Mike and Janet Winters of Wetumka – father, Suzy and John Humphreys of Seminole - mother

School: Seminole State College

Degree: Associate's in applied science for nursing

Tribal Town: Tuskegee

Was on the International Honor Society for two-year colleges, in Phi Theta Kappa, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 2016 and received the Jasmine Moran Scholarship, MCN Tribal Grant and MCN Higher Education Grant. Seth plans on working at Shawnee Medical Center in Shawnee and continuing his education towards a bachelor's degree in nursing and possibly further.

John Wood



Parents: Steve Wood of Eufaula and Janice Curtis Wood of Summerville, S.C. – parents, Johnny and Betty Wood of Eufaula and Marie Dittebrand of Akron, Ohio - grandparents

School: South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville, S.C.

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Tuskegee

Church: Tuskegee Indian Baptist

Ceremonial Ground: Tuskegee

In the fall, John will attend New York University in New York City as a dean's scholar. He intends to major in computer science with an emphasis on game design.

Melinda Yargee



Parents: Jack Yargee and Lillie Hill

School: University of Oklahoma

Degree: Master's in human relations

Clan: Wind

Ceremonial Ground: Weogufkee

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated

Title 37, Chapter 2 titled "Budget and Finance," Subchapter 7, Section 2-709 (approved Oct. 18, 1988 - ammended April 6, 1989)

'The controller shall prepare quarterly financial statements which disclose receipts, encumbered, expended, unencumbered and cash balance, contract funds for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This report shall be published each fiscal quarter in the Muscogee Nation News with a narrative explaining the financial statement.'

The following is a narrative provided by the MCN Office of the Controller:

In accordance with Title 37, Chapter 2 titled "Budget and Finance", Subchapter 7 Section 2-709, Financial Statements, the Controller's Office prepared the quarterly financial statement for the period ending March 31, 2016. This report covers receipts, expenses, encumbrances, and cash balances from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. The reports lists the fund account number which is established based on the type of funds received; the program name; receipts (revenue); encumbered (purchase orders for operations); expended (expenditures for operations); unencumbered (this would be the same as the cash balance); cash balance (the difference between receipts less encumbered less expended). The Controller's Office will answer questions regarding this report by calling 918-732-7930.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FY 2016 - QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2016 (OCTOBER, 2016 THUR MARCH, 2016)

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME	RECEIPTS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	UNENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	TRIBAL FUNDS:					
002360	ECON DEVELOPMENT	3,058,497.00	-	-	-	3,058,497.00
004163	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	1,546,225.97	-	-	-	1,546,225.97
008234	TAXES & LICENSES	1,666,668.93	-	-	-	1,666,668.93
008599	DEBT RETIREMENT FUND	6,028,655.48	-	-	-	6,028,655.48
008560	GAMING	24,104,476.60	-	-	-	24,104,476.60
008561	PERMANENT FUND	6,028,655.38	-	-	-	6,028,655.38
009734	MOTOR VEHICLE	1,098,431.70	-	-	-	1,098,431.70
009938	HEALTH EDUCATION FUND	4,655.83	-	-	-	4,655.83
009940	HEALTH SERVICE FUND	1,508,590.09	-	-	-	1,508,590.09
102005	LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	556.50	-	-	-	556.50
102007	ALCOHOL/DRUG PREVENTION	19,144.30	-	-	-	19,144.30
102008	LIQUOR/BEVERAGE	58,853.89	-	-	-	58,853.89
102160	GAMING RESERVE	1,285.79	-	-	-	1,285.79
102239	TRIBAL TRADE & COMMERCE	0.13	-	-	-	0.13
102360	ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	6,300,541.08	22,398.85	582,349.66	-	5,695,792.57
104151	TREASURY	2,515.89	-	21,418.50	-	(18,902.61)

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated

Title 37, Chapter 2 titled "Budget and Finance," Subchapter 7, Section 2-709 (approved Oct. 18, 1988 - ammended April 6, 1989)

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME	RECEIPTS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	UNENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
104152	ANGEL TREE	3,916.26	-	4,257.32	-	(341.06)
108230	LITIGATION & LOBBYING	96.51	-	-	-	96.51
108234	GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	4,404,313.82	8,270.23	908,574.30	-	3,487,469.29
108235	MOTOR FUEL TAXES	2,293,511.64	2,825.00	1,874,561.25	-	416,125.39
108241	RAMAH CONTRACT SUPPORT	629.85	-	-	-	629.85
108475	TERO	115,633.06	5,298.04	32,877.53	-	77,457.49
108476	MVSKOKE MEDIA REVOLVING	22,417.64	-	6,987.53	-	15,430.11
108477	PUBLIC RELATIONS	8,850.00	-	6,322.00	-	2,528.00
108478	GAMING REVOLVING	604,252.34	-	-	-	604,252.34
108483	CN FESTIVAL	571,417.37	4,888.67	43,576.98	-	522,951.72
108553	CONSUMER LOANS	1.25	-	-	-	1.25
108560	MCN GAMING	75,571,345.09	1,501,589.59	36,353,418.90	-	37,716,336.60
108564	BOK SETTLEMENT	0.47	-	-	-	0.47
108565	CULTURAL PRESERVATION	65,635.10	8.07	116,458.78	-	(50,831.75)
108568	CODIFICATION	12.48	-	-	-	12.48
108575	MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	783,496.19	39,134.70	172,559.17	-	571,802.32
108576	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	-	-	1,440.12	-	(1,440.12)
108590	COURT ORDER RESTITUTION	0.37	-	-	-	0.37
108599	DEBT RETIREMENT FUND	19,553,067.66	-	11,114,719.40	-	8,438,348.26
109352	TRIBAL BUDGET	362.15	-	226,423.50	-	(226,061.35)
109612	MCN FLAGS & ETC	6.16	-	-	-	6.16
109614	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	6.81	-	-	-	6.81
109734	MOTOR VEHICLE	2,387,653.37	13,117.82	752,070.61	-	1,622,464.94
109938	HEALTH EDUCATION	12,551.55	-	12,551.55	-	-
109939	GENERAL CONTRACT HEATLH	24,000.00	-	-	-	24,000.00
109940	72 HOUR	4,099,861.25	-	4,099,861.25	-	-
109941	WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	19,144.31	-	-	-	19,144.31
109956	LIGHTHORSE	2,723.05	-	(55.00)	-	2,778.05
109959	LIGHTHORSE FORFEIT/SEIZURE	2.59	-	-	-	2.59
109976	INSURANCE LOSS FUND	10,287.32	-	17,187.84	-	(6,900.52)
109972	ONAC	-	2,142.00	1,350.00	-	(3,492.00)
118561	PERMANENT FUND	2,506,401.17	27,729.02	2,332,877.24	-	145,794.91
118595	MERRILL LYNCH	7,349,362.52	-	258,503.41	-	7,090,859.11
118597	BOKF CAVANAL HILL	399,427.83	-	24,220.86	-	375,206.97
	FEDERAL FUNDS:					
201513	HISTORIC PRESERVATION	176.12	-	-	-	176.12
211111	NAHASDA '11	27,039,025.93	1,735,190.45	8,184,858.85	-	17,118,976.63
211488	MICROENTERPRISE LOANS	7,011.88	81.00	107,220.64	-	(100,289.76)
221108	TANF	28,619.21	-	28,888.79	-	(269.58)
221208	TANF 12	1,238.65	645.28	1,238.65	-	(645.28)
221308	TANF 13	2,243.64	265.41	2,243.64	-	(265.41)
221408	TANF 14	77,192.73	8,518.92	28,945.63	-	39,728.18
221424	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '14	21,145.37	10,618.39	21,183.37	-	(10,656.39)
221425	CCDBG MANDATORY '14	683,659.36	14,505.51	691,615.06	-	(22,461.21)
221476	AOA ENP 14	68,287.33	-	71,371.60	-	(3,084.27)
221504	LIHEAP 15	524.39	-	524.39	-	-
221508	TANF	499,388.61	13,273.81	500,279.21	-	(14,164.41)
221520	FAMILY PRESERVATION	151,833.25	11,435.97	155,179.24	-	(14,781.96)
221524	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '15	979,960.89	19,305.88	990,814.27	-	(30,159.26)
221525	CCDBG MANDATORY '15	380,625.62	24,195.99	383,578.41	-	(27,148.78)
221535	HEADSTART	361,439.66	-	361,439.66	-	-
221540	TITLE IV B	109,921.93	822.75	112,251.25	-	(3,152.07)
221544	FAMILY VIOLENCE	192,609.88	50,979.74	197,430.18	-	(55,800.04)
221604	LIHEAP '16	46,025.45	-	53,685.58	-	(7,660.13)
221621	CHILD SUPPORT	675,944.29	122,175.40	693,469.00	-	(139,700.11)
221624	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '16	26,915.67	11,293.12	27,947.87	-	(12,325.32)
221625	CHILD CARE MANDATORY '16	33,947.13	6,851.76	34,161.69	-	(7,066.32)
221635	HEAD START	634,274.10	18,205.99	667,581.31	-	(51,513.20)
222908	TANF	216,741.06	-	220,870.12	-	(4,129.06)
231485	BREAST PEER COUNSELOR '14	-	-	22,849.29	-	(22,849.29)
231641	FOOD DISTRIBUTION '16	285,919.52	20,234.49	436,079.68	-	(170,394.65)
231686	WIC	551,020.46	21,643.08	990,027.33	-	(460,649.95)
	PROGRAM INCOME:					
241112	PROCEEDS OF SALE	72,948.50	39,274.18	154,645.63	-	(120,971.31)
241307	MVSKOKE LANGUAGE	1,165.18	494.55	6,415.85	-	(5,745.22)
241321	DISTRICT COURT	27,651.82	-	996.38	-	26,655.44
241326	MUSEUM & ARCHIVES	-	-	10,300.00	-	(10,300.00)
241327	POST GRADUATE EDUCATION	-	-	16,422.10	-	(16,422.10)
241467	CHARTER SERVICES	13,883.00	-	552.00	-	13,331.00
241500	REINTEGRATION	1,003.00	-	728.33	-	274.67
241515	YOUTH SERVICES	2,500.00	-	2,364.24	-	135.76
242981	WIC PROGRAM INCOME	307,491.98	-	307,491.98	-	-
248402	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	4.35	-	-	-	4.35
248406	JOHNSON O'MALLEY	1,338.90	-	5,575.99	-	(4,237.09)
248411	HOUSING PROGRAM INCOME	1,217,173.67	136,458.49	832,408.22	-	248,306.96
248412	HA EMERGENCY REHAB	111,483.30	123,074.00	238,659.35	-	(250,250.05)
248425	MCN CHILD DEVELOP CENTER	365,582.64	9,095.00	599.98	-	355,887.66
248468	TRANSIT	18,590.33	-	3,600.00	-	14,990.33
248470	CHILD CARE USDA REIMBURSE	22,746.17	17,709.44	19,922.78	-	(14,886.05)
248471	HEAD START USDA REIMBURSE	125,629.16	25,852.29	72,604.34	-	27,172.53
248472	EUFAULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	2,437.47	23,734.11	12,851.20	-	(34,147.84)
248473	TRANSPORTATION IMPROV (TIP)	62.17	-	-	-	62.17
248475	ELECTION BOARD	49.28	-	-	-	49.28

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated

Title 37, Chapter 2 titled "Budget and Finance," Subchapter 7, Section 2-709 (approved Oct. 18, 1988 - ammended April 6, 1989)

'The controller shall prepare quarterly financial statements which disclose receipts, encumbered, expended, unencumbered and cash balance, contract funds for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This report shall be published each fiscal quarter in the Muscogee Nation News with a narrative explaining the financial statement.' ***See the narrative on page 14.***

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME	RECEIPTS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	UNENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
248479	CITIZENSHIP BOARD	39,403.51	-	5,431.39	-	33,972.12
248480	FOOD DISTRIBUTION	1,941.67	-	-	-	1,941.67
248484	INDIAN ROADS (IRR)	41,424.75	15,240.00	20,051.16	-	6,133.59
248490	SECRETARY OF NATION	765.00	-	-	-	765.00
249990	SELF GOVERNANCE	3,205.56	-	-	-	3,205.56
	FEDERAL FUNDS:					
251449	NANHMS	-	5,847.04	9,156.60	-	(15,003.64)
251550	NACA PROGRAM	21,462.90	6,838.20	16,416.98	-	(1,792.28)
251616	STEP PROGRAM	-	444.88	70,515.63	-	(70,960.51)
261221	EUFAULA DORM '12	120,884.43	6,139.27	24,295.32	-	90,449.84
261286	FEDERAL ROADS	2,911,529.38	1,345,109.52	925,484.19	-	640,935.67
261302	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	4,055.45	-	978.13	-	3,077.32
261306	JOM '13	1,335,145.42	6,770.29	454,855.21	-	873,519.92
261321	EUFAULA DORM '13	1,102,972.23	6,919.10	198,147.50	-	897,905.63
261386	FEDERAL ROADS	2,108,150.97	99,883.14	520,146.50	-	1,488,121.33
261413	PL 477	1,378,681.33	6,796.59	392,521.90	-	979,362.84
261421	EUFAULA DORM '14	744,715.90	85,433.01	109,629.68	-	549,653.21
261486	FEDERAL ROADS	5,650,053.79	534,816.12	898,683.81	-	4,216,553.86
261521	EUFAULA DORM	1,200,605.68	21,129.75	226,692.78	-	952,783.15
261586	FEDERAL ROADS	8,159,576.66	1,635,506.36	276,090.34	-	6,247,979.96
261602	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,770.00	-	135.16	-	1,634.84
261606	JOM '16	142,089.00	-	-	-	142,089.00
262001	SELF GOVERNANCE	1,152,845.67	7,534,805.68	4,786,126.74	-	(11,168,086.75)
271468	DOT-TRANSIT PROGRAM	-	26,490.00	39,864.00	-	(66,354.00)
271568	DOT-TRANSIT PROGRAM	0.34	53,372.71	255,337.35	-	(308,709.72)
291307	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	29,855.66	3,534.81	57,912.36	-	(31,591.51)
291330	EXCHANGE NETWORK	55,667.70	19,327.11	84,197.72	-	(47,857.13)
291332	TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER	184,321.39	3,022,506.88	749,368.12	-	(3,587,553.61)
291406	SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES	27,645.65	10,420.43	43,666.79	-	(26,441.57)
291407	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	46,113.97	15,079.45	82,495.29	-	(51,460.77)
291410	GAP	5,539.44	9,798.41	14,718.77	-	(18,977.74)
291416	CLEAN WATER ACT	22,304.70	-	22,304.70	-	-
291432	JUSTICE,ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE	39,724.91	2,750.00	55,882.02	-	(18,907.11)
291439	CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT	-	-	35,827.68	-	(35,827.68)
291508	VOCA	162.00	710.34	18,255.30	-	(18,803.64)
291516	CLEAN WATER ACT	18,400.66	-	2,628.59	-	15,772.07
291532	JUSTICE,ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE	-	37,191.22	-	-	(37,191.22)
291616	CLEAN WATER ACT	6,066.25	1,467.97	16,674.95	-	(12,076.67)
292807	STOP VIOLENCE	3,030.45	-	-	-	3,030.45
	CONSTRUCTION FUNDS:					
411188	STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	-	-	4,022.00	-	(4,022.00)
411288	STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	-	-	4,022.00	-	(4,022.00)
411332	TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER/REINTEGRATION	-	1,581,410.48	775,934.08	-	(2,357,344.56)
411388	FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTER	-	-	17,117.20	-	(17,117.20)
411493	CNG	-	-	345,000.00	-	(345,000.00)
411589	HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER	-	78,500.00	55,285.89	-	(133,785.89)
	ENTERPRISE FUNDS:					
501111	37 ACT	1,179,787.14	-	1,327,356.24	-	(147,569.10)
501260	FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF	1,029,167.11	54,162.22	341,413.13	-	633,591.76
501350	CDFI	9,060.95	-	-	-	9,060.95
501351	IRP	5,107.37	-	-	-	5,107.37
502123	MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	279,999.96	38,691.21	64,634.60	-	176,674.15
502456	I.H.S. OFFICE BLDG	23,737.98	-	-	-	23,737.98
504162	TRIBAL AGRICULTURE - DUSTIN FARMS	76,402.80	18,517.10	214,177.29	-	(156,291.59)
504165	HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY	835.00	17,375.43	66,383.92	-	(82,924.35)
508483	TOURISM & RECREATION	1,706,497.00	31,352.44	673,424.53	-	1,001,720.03
509619	ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	185,792.81	-	(18,861.75)	-	204,654.56
	TRUST FUNDS:					
604191	MCN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	97,281.19	-	19,094.78	-	78,186.41
	INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS:					
702133	ROADS FORCE ACCOUNT	535,198.27	378,442.80	559,179.79	-	(402,424.32)
702536	NAHASDA FORCE ACCOUNT	746,535.81	125,507.24	648,511.75	-	(27,483.18)
702537	NAHASDA MAINTENANCE	53,982.73	17,099.50	55,862.63	-	(18,979.40)
704160	TRIBAL REAL PROP & FACILITY	1,198.74	28,966.39	902,854.46	-	(930,622.11)
704162	FLEET MANAGEMENT	1,023,827.73	119,629.41	260,971.11	-	643,227.21
704163	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	4,299,825.83	374,637.58	1,255,695.75	-	2,669,492.50
704165	TELEPHONY	1,053,383.33	1,989.00	571,910.76	-	479,483.57
708240	ADMIN/INDIRECT	3,343,933.65	145,838.11	3,343,062.16	-	(144,966.62)
	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:					
904331	CN FOUNDATION SCHOLAR FUND	81.62	-	-	-	81.62
904332	DORM SCHOLARSHIP FUND	9,268.90	-	-	-	9,268.90
904333	BELVIN HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	70.00	-	40.00	-	30.00
904334	HIGHER ED SCHOLARSHIP FUND	41,389.72	-	17,346.10	-	24,043.62
908477	NEIL CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP	2.01	-	-	-	2.01

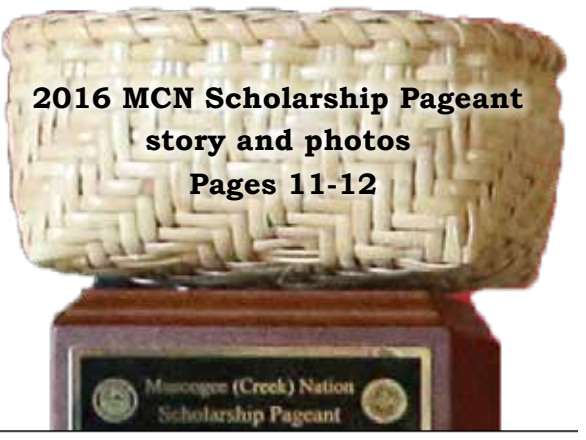
Receipts are revenue received, encumbered are purchase orders issued for supplies, etc., expenses are purchases for each program, unencumbered would be the same as cash balance.



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

June 15, 2016 "Kvcohvse" Blackberry Month

Vol. 46, Issue 12



2016 MCN Scholarship Pageant story and photos Pages 11-12

Muscogee Nation News

A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Lighthorse works to improve relationships, skills

Tribal police leadership mending agreement with Okmulgee sheriff

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With a change in leadership at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department, the law enforcement agency is working to improve relationships with other agencies within the tribal jurisdiction.

During a May 25 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' LTPD Acting Chief of Police Daniel Wind III and Acting Deputy Chief of Police Robert Hawkins spoke about the issue, specifically involving a cross-jurisdictional agreement with the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Department that was canceled by the sheriff last year.

"We actually had a meeting with the sheriff and the Okmulgee County district attorney last week (mid-May) where we hashed out a plan for our Attorney General Kevin Dillenger and one of the assistant AGs, Shelly Harrison to sit down with the (Okmulgee) DA Rob Barris to kind of 'hash' out everything, to come to an understanding that's beneficial and mutually agreeable to both parties," Wind said.

Lighthorse - 7



Sterling Cosper_MNN File Art

In reference to the reported health deficit, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council addressed the MCN Department of Health Governing Board at the March 15 planning session held at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Fractured Finances: Health Governing Board discusses lack of financial transparency

Council questions employees receiving significant amounts of overtime pay

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In reference to the reported health deficit, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council addressed the MCN Department of Health Governing Board at the March 15 planning session.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested the planning session audio recording from the Council. The recording can be reviewed at: http://tinyurl.com/z67xx22.

'MNN' cannot independently verify the identities of individuals referred to as board members who made statements in the recording.

Governing Board

'MNN' requested information regarding how many individuals serve on the governing board, how they are chosen, as well as interviews with MCN health and financial officials for clarification about information obtained through documents, meetings and interviews.

'MNN' was granted an interview with MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

The Public Relations Department requested a list of questions be sent for review prior to the interview.

Floyd commented on the structure of the governing board.

"I know very little of the health board. Having walked in a little over 90 days ago, I know that there is a health board," he said. "I think it's more of an internal management board."

Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger discussed the reported health deficit in an April 27 interview with Mvskoke Media.

He spoke about the health governing board.

"The Nation doesn't have a health board. It does have senior management that the Council met with," George

Health - 4

$2.5 million approved for Council House renovations

Council passes legislation to form electoral process review committee

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a regular session May 21 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

- **NCR 16-003 Selecting Glen Michael Bunney to the Board of Directors of Onefire Holding Company LLC. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-1 with Rep. Joyce Deere voting against it.**

Per the operating agreement between MCN and Onefire, the Council will choose a person who meets the selection criteria.

Bunney would fill the remaining term of Kay Bills, who recently resigned. The term ends Sept. 28.

Deere said she voted against the resolution because Bunney is not a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"I just believe that those opportunities ought to go to our citizens because we have a vested interest," she said.

- **NCR 16-004 Select-**

Council - 6



Internet image

Children and Family Services looking for foster homes

377 children awaiting temporary care

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration is looking for foster homes to accommodate a reported 377 Muscogee (Creek) children awaiting care in Oklahoma.

"We have 12 resource homes that are non-relative placements. Out of those 12, there are only three that are open for placement, meaning the rest of them are completely full," Holly Dunn, CFSA Resource Home Recruitment and Training Manager said.

According to the National Adoption Center, foster care is a temporary arrangement in which adults provide for care of a child or children whose birthparent is unable to care for them for a variety of reasons.

"We have adoptive placements," Dunn said. "Adoption seems like the way that everyone wants to go when they do make that commitment but we do need foster homes."

The federal Indian Child Welfare Act gives guidelines for adoption and foster care of Native American minors intended to facilitate placement of these children with Native homes to help preserve their culture.

Foster - 9

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'

Graduation attire, John Wayne reject, commodity cheese

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It's been the time for school graduations and it's nice to see so many Mvskoke students receiving diplomas.

What Indian students wear to those graduations has been raising some eyebrows around our state and even the East Coast.

First of all, congratulations to Liseanne Yazzie and her mother Michelle Bear Robe for standing up to the school officials in Sapulpa for Yazzie's right to wear Navajo moccasins at her graduation. The young woman did the right thing by informing the Sapulpa education folks of a desire to include traditional footwear as an expression of pride in her heritage.

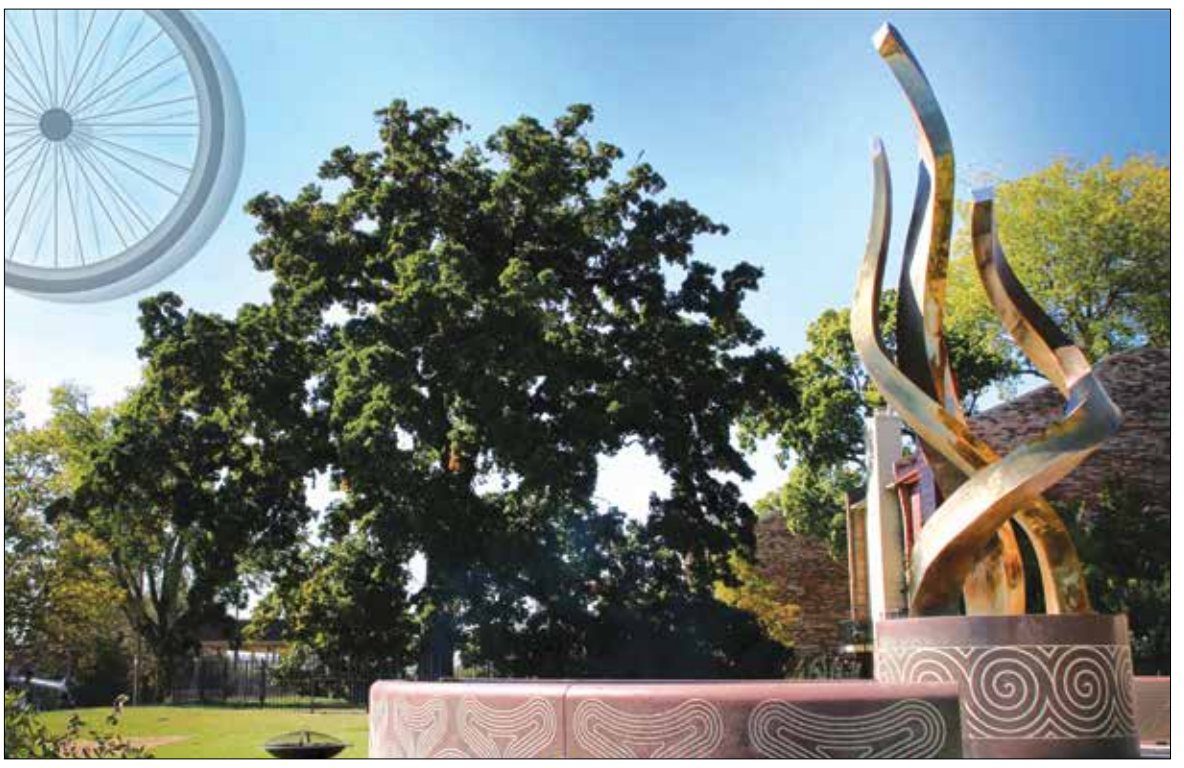
But at first, the Sapulpa Public Schools (home of the Chieftains) denied the request saying they didn't allow boots. BOOTS? Her mom did a June 1 interview with 'Mvskoke Radio' and said they were both shocked at this reasoning and decided to make a case of it.

NARF — the Native American Rights Fund weighed in for them and to their credit, Sapulpa Public School District Superintendent Kevin Burr issued a statement reversing their stance.

'After careful consideration and reflection, Sapulpa Public Schools has decided

Emvpanyv - 9

Event to show Nation's Tulsa history through bikes



MNN File Photo

Council Oak Park will be included in a June 25 bike tour of Muscogee (Creek) history in Tulsa, Okla.

Tour will include Council Oak, Perryman Ranch

Darren DeLaune
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The city of Tulsa has an enormous amount of history with the oil boom, race riots, Great Depression and of course the tribe that provided its name, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

MCN history spans throughout the tribal jurisdiction but there is a lot just in the city itself.

And one lady wants to combine it with her hobby of cycling.

Allison Herrera is a producer/reporter on a project with KOSU Radio called 'Invisible Nations.'

According to www.kosu.org, the project is a collaboration between the station, Herrera and the Association of Independence in Radio, which focuses on Native American nations within the state of Oklahoma.

"This is basically to build a type of reporting model for people to follow when they report on Native communities," Herrera said.

With the tour, Herrera said she was intrigued by the current infrastructure in Tulsa and wondered what it was like in the past.

"I would see a lot of bikes but no bike paths," she said. "I am also a person that loves history and would like to know more of what use to be in this city before the built in environment."

Herrera said she has learned about the town through research, interviews and informal discussions since February.

"I have interviewed several people and I have to get a couple more people," Herrera said. "Some of it, you do intentionally but some of it is conversations you have over dinner or socializing and learning about the history that way."

> **"This is combining my love bicycling and Tulsa's love for bicycling with history. It pays a respect for people that have come before us."**
>
> **— Allison Herrera**

According to an article on the KOSU website, the tour is scheduled June 25 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and starts at the edge of the Brady Arts District on 3rd North Lawton Ave.

Participants will need a bicycle and those who do not have one will be outfitted by event sponsor the Tulsa Hub for a small donation.

"This could not happen without Tulsa Hub," Herrera said. "They are going to be providing bicycle training and safety and helping to lead the riders throughout the city."

Herrera hopes this will spawn a series of tours.

"This is just the beginning," Herrera said. "It is a living document. It is a living tour."

The tour will last about two-and-a-half hours and Herrera said that this is only scratching the surface on MCN history in Tulsa.

"I've been thinking a lot about that as I read and have been listening to a lot of interviews that I have done," Herrera said.

Water, snacks and bike escorts will be provided along the way to ensure safety.

"This is combining my love of bicycling and Tulsa's love for bicycling with history," Herrera said. "It pays a respect for people that have come before us."

To sign up or for more information visit: http://kosu.org/post/creek-town-tulsa-town-bicycle-tour-creek-sites-tulsa or email: allison@kosu.org.



Internet image

Obama announces rule affecting overtime regulations

MCN was set to discuss effect with other tribes June 14

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — U.S. President Barack Obama made an announcement May 18 to change overtime regulations.

The rule changes the exempt salary level from $23,660 to $47,476, and requires overtime pay of time-and-a-half for employees earning less than $47,476. Automatic updates will occur every three years beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

According to the overview and summary of the final rule, 'The rule will entitle most salaried white collar workers earning less than $913 a week ($47,476 a year) to overtime pay. This long-awaited update will provide a meaningful boost to workers, and it will go a long way toward realizing President Obama's commitment to ensuring every worker is compensated fairly for their hard work.'

Mvskoke Media requested an interview May 18 with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Resources on how the current overtime policy works and what changes would need to be made to meet the new requirements by Dec. 1, as well as an MCN official on how the rule would affect the 2017 budget.

Mvskoke Media was given a written statement from MCN Assistant Controller Kathy Guthrie through MCN Public Relations:

'The MCN at this time are in negotiations on how the MCN will be affected by President Obama's legislation on overtime regulations. This federal legislation will not be affective until December 1st allowing the MCN to prepare and contact other tribes to procure a system that best works for us. Meetings have been scheduled on June 14th to discuss with other tribes on how to best handle these new overtime terms and brainstorm on these matters.'

The MCN Human Resource Management Services Policies and Procedures Manual, states, 'All employees who are non-exempt based on the Fair Labor Standards Act shall be given Compensatory time at a rate of one and one half hours for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours per week.'

It also states that employees classified as exempt are not eligible for compensatory time.

The section states that the Fair Labor Standards Act defines exempt employees as, 'any employee employed in a bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity.'

The manual states that flex time can be earned by, 'job related time worked in excess of the eight hour work day.'

The manual outlines other requirements for compensatory and flex time earned.

The manual, dated Aug. 7, 2014 can be found at: www.mcn-nsn.gov/Pages/Personnel/pdf/PoliciesandProcedures2014.pdf.

For information regarding Obama's announcement of the rule regarding overtime, visit: www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/final2016/.

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

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The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Tulsa mayoral primary election set for June 28

Five candidates to appear on the ballot

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Five candidates will be on the ballot for the June 28 Tulsa mayoral election. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Dewey Bartlett

Why are you running for mayor?

"I feel it's very important for somebody who has a significant amount of business experience to be in elected office. But I also feel that because of the successes that we've had, it's a very, very good way for us to continue to broaden those successes and make our city even that much more relevant."

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

"A regular guy."

What are your thoughts on the current relationship between the City of Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and what do you feel you would bring to the relationship?

"I think it's an extremely good relationship and I really mean that very seriously. We have an extremely good relationship. When I became mayor, there was absolutely no relationship other than a bad one. That's changed. That's changed dramatically and I'm very, very proud of that."

"I think they'll change for the better. We really do have a very, very solid relationship. It's going to be good and I think it'll be extraordinarily good… because we each have very similar needs. We each have a strong need for economic development. We have a strong need to work together. We have a strong need to strongly consider what our own needs are, and then as best we can work with others to accomplish those goals."

"I've seen too many times when people will assume, they take the relationship with the Creek Nation for granted and I have never done that and will never do that."

MCN has placed a lot of money in the Tulsa and Jenks area along the Arkansas River. How do you plan to partner with MCN to make the area better for residents?

"One thing we've done is, we've worked very well in supporting the Creek Nation's needs both at Margaritaville as well as the RiverWalk. Our ability to provide a fire service for example. We have very specific equipment that would have to be used in a high rise building for example. Well, we've made an arrangement, we can provide that. Ambulance service, policing service, we supplement the Lighthorse when necessary. And we're always there with a phone call."

"When we have similar interests, we all work together for economic development and it works better for everybody. When the City of Tulsa does well, that provides people that want to go to Margaritaville and vice versa… We have very similar self-interests and for one to exclude the other, we understand that that's not a good approach and we don't do that. We support each other."

Why would you be the best mayor for Tulsa and Muscogee (Creek) citizens?

"Without question, it's my experience. The success that we've had because of my experience in economic development, in job creation, working with not only the Creek Nation and other governments, both tribal governments and city, county governments etc. Those relationships are extremely important."

"I've owned my own business, been in the oil and gas business for several decades, have been able to create business relationship as well as political relationships throughout the country. And those have been very helpful to the City of Tulsa. With the relationships that we've had, we've helped create almost 30,000 jobs in the Tulsa area and that's pretty significant."

Do you have any Native American citizenship?

"No, I do not."

Closing comments.

"I would like to respectfully ask the Creek citizens that are registered to vote in the City of Tulsa for the City of Tulsa elections, I would respectfully ask for their vote on June 28. I do not focus on whatever bad news might be stated by some of the other candidates. I focus on the success that we've had, the growth that this city has had and the very strong future that this city is experiencing now. That is my focus and it's a very, very successful focus. And we're going to continue that with my re-election."

For more information about Bartlett, visit: www.deweybartlett.com.

G.T. Bynum

Why are you running for mayor?

"I'm running for mayor because I think we have significant challenges in front of us as a city if we want to return to being a city that is growing and that is nationally competitive… I think we need to have somebody in that office that is willing to do the work that is going to be required over the next four years to make an impact on these major challenges we face."

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

"Focused. Collaborative. Passionate."

What are your thoughts on the current relationship between the City of Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and what do you feel you would bring to the relationship?

"I think that, that relationship has completely changed in the time that I have been on the city council. I first came on the city council in 2008 and virtually the only communication that existed between the city and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the time were conflicts over land use and parcels of land potentially being put into trust. We were not working together in a collaborative way… We view the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a partner, as a government that we want to be working with in a proactive way."

MCN has placed a lot of money in the Tulsa and Jenks area along the Arkansas River. How do you plan to partner with MCN to make the area better for residents?

"As far as how we move forward, I think that's one of those things that as mayor I believe we have to harness the assets that we have as a community and that we need to be partnering together better… We also need to be partnering with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation better than we do today. There are many Tulsans that are members of the Nation. It's also a tremendous economic engine for us in Tulsa. So I'm excited for the potential for us to work together and better the lives of people in both of our governments."

"I have a track record of reaching out and working to partner with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation… The work that we did on the river continues that, but the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is making tremendous investments and doing really exciting things in the City of Tulsa. I think that those investments, that type of economic commitment to the City of Tulsa makes it so that citizens of the Nation should want a mayor in Tulsa who's focused on making our city better and on growing it, not being content to coast on the accomplishments of the past."

Why would you be the best mayor for Tulsa and Muscogee (Creek) citizens?

"I am working to pull all parts of our city together, not to divide people, but to identify very clear things that we need to do as a community for Tulsa to grow and be nationally competitive again. I've identified what these things are. I'm very clear on what we need to do to accomplish them and I have a track record of setting high goals, pulling people together and working to achieve them. Whether it was passing the largest street improvement programs in Tulsa history or putting our police helicopters back in the air after they've been grounded due to budget cuts, or passing this most recent Vision initiative after people have been talking about building lakes in the river for over half a century."

"I don't think that everything is just fine. I think that we could be doing a lot better. I also have no interest in running for any other office. I come from a family that believes that service as the mayor of the City of Tulsa is the highest elected office that one can serve in that allows you to make a day-to-day impact in the lives of the people that you love. So, I just want to be a good mayor. I don't want to use it to run for anything else. I have no interest in running for anything else."

Do you have any Native American citizenship?

"I am the fifth generation to live here in Tulsa, but I do not have any Native American ancestry."

Closing comments.

"I would just say outside of all this, the campaign, I'm just so thankful for the leadership of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that I've had a chance to work with that they have been accessible and eager to work with us at the City of Tulsa. And it's exciting to think about what we can accomplish together in the next four years."

For more information about Bynum, visit: www.gt-bynum.com.

Lawrence Kirkpatrick

The 'Muscogee Nation News' was unable to locate a phone number, website or social media page for Lawrence Kirkpatrick. Due to deadline constraints, the candidate was unable to be contacted.

Tom McCay

Why are you running for mayor?

"Probably the top five reasons are to offer Tulsa a truly alternative choice for mayor. I'm the candidate that's different than the previous eight-10 year status quo… My main concept to save the city is to lower the cost for Tulsa businesses by extending the life span of cyclical municipal regulations… You see, it's small business that creates jobs, it's not government."

"I am the man to animate the unregistered citizen, the apathetic registered voter. Most people who register don't vote because they don't think it matters. They don't think that their vote counts, and it really doesn't unless you vote for me. I'm not a professional politician."

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

"American. Constitutionalism. Capitalist."

What are your thoughts on the current relationship between the City of Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and what do you feel you would bring to the relationship?

"The Creek Nation probably suffers from the similar problems of the Cherokee Nation… You do not grow a city. A city is grown when you grow its citizens."

"I believe the city government should come up underneath in a supporting role for the county… so that the county can come up underneath the state in a supporting role… so that the state can tell the feds to get out of our business."

MCN has placed a lot of money in the Tulsa and Jenks area along the Arkansas River. How do you plan to partner with MCN to make the area better for residents?

"I am not in favor of a concentration of power. I believe that what made America great was a division of power… I don't like the fact that they are mixing and concentrating the power. That's how you get tyranny. We're not looking for total efficiency, we're looking for the principals of liberty. So, what I would do to help that out in a partnering way is to make clear the distinction between the Tulsa city, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the City of Jenks. Here's what I would say, I would speak clearly and not give mixed signals. This has been your problem in the past."

"Get Tulsa out of your way is what I would do. I'd keep the City of Tulsa out of your way."

Why would you be the best mayor for Tulsa and Muscogee (Creek) citizens?

"I'm not a professional politician… And the reason I'd do best is because what they've been doing is not good. It's going in the wrong direction. We don't want the city to try to grow again."

"We need to chew what we've got now and not grow the city. We need to get the city out of education, out of health care. We don't have time…"

Do you have any Native American citizenship?

Cherokee Nation citizen.

Closing comments.

"I'm 30 years married to the same woman. I have five children, 28 to eight. My background is in small business... all of my 21 elements that are tactics are on the website, my three strategic principals."

For more information about McCay, visit: www.tommccay.com.

Paul Tay

Why are you running for mayor?

"I think we need to have new voices in charge of city hall… I think that we need to have a more closer relationship with the Nation and to do that, if I'm elected I'll go ahead and hire a secretary of Native affairs to coordinate the city's cooperation, coordination of projects with the Nation."

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

"Persistent. Consistent. Respectful."

What are your thoughts on the current relationship between the City of Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and what do you feel you would bring to the relationship?

"I believe that they're really treating the Nation like they treat minorities… if you guys don't line up and get behind

Mayoral - 7

Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tiger said.

He said under his administration, the senior management was chosen through the health department and was not appointed by him.

MCN Code Annotated Title 22, Chapter 4 on the MCN Supreme Court website discusses MCNDH. The sections can be viewed at: www.creeksupremecourt.com/images/code/webver/title22.pdf.

Section 4-104 discusses a board of directors composed of five citizens that establish policies and procedures, as well as have oversight over the department.

Section 4-116 outlines the MCN Okemah Community Hospital board of directors.

During the planning session, members of the MCNDH Governing Board introduced themselves, and included:

- Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lawrence Vark
- Chief Financial Officer Tyler McIntosh
- Behavioral Health Services Director Dr. Tamara Newcomb
- Chief Hospital Operations Officer Angela Daugherty
- Chief Nursing Officer Annette James
- Legislative Officer John Beaver
- Chief Performance Officer Shoneen Alexander-Ross
- Chief Facility Management Officer Tim Woolsey
- Chief Information Officer Robert Coffey
- Human Resources Director Russell Torbet

Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Beaver and Syd Daniel of the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center were absent from the March 15 session. From the discussions during the session, one board position has not been filled, and another position remains vacant for the secretary of health.

Transparency

In the recording, Rep. David Hill asked if the deficit was ever brought to the board's attention.

A board member responded, "Financial reports were pretty scant the last six to eight months at governing board meetings… Mr. McIntosh did make the board aware that we were running in a deficit. Didn't really, I certainly didn't know the magnitude of the deficit as it was."

Council Speaker Lucian Tiger asked how the financial status reached this point.

"I would just say that when questions were asked of the board, it wasn't in an environment where we could speak openly and ask. I know Tyler made efforts to bring some of the reports forward. Those were not always discussed.

"The chair obviously facilitates the meeting and there were times when we were asked to give a brief report and that we may discuss some of those items in an officer meeting following. That didn't always happen and I know some of us were not always comfortable asking and pushing the issue," a board member responded.

One individual stated they were unsure how long the deficit would have gone unreported if administrative changes had not occurred, but that they met with Floyd the first week of his term as principal chief regarding the topic.

Another individual stated their "jaws dropped probably like yours did," when they became aware of the deficit amount.

Lucian Tiger also discussed the governing board.

"The one thing also that I see on here, there has to be some restructuring of this governing board," he said. "From what you're telling me, obviously Seneca (Smith) wasn't forthcoming with information. Is that what I'm understanding y'all are saying?"

An unverified board member responded with the statement, "Yes sir."

'MNN' reached out to former MCN Secretary of Health Seneca Smith for comment March 30, April 7 and April 20, and left voicemails requesting a call back. Smith has not returned any calls as of May 4.

George Tiger said he has been in contact with Smith and that Smith is unable to comment on the situation due to his federal employment status.

The full interview can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/tiger-speaks-former-chief-addresses-reported-health-deficit/.

"But I don't know of, no one's ever came to me at any time to say that there was no transparency in the health administration," George Tiger said. "I do think that there may have been some miscommunications. Again, sometimes it's how the question is asked."

He said he believes this was the case for this issue.

"I think if the question would have been or could have been conveyed is, is there some transparency issues that may be forthcoming instead of point blank just point fingers at someone," George Tiger said.

George Tiger said he commissioned a survey prior to his administration that revealed health as a citizen priority.

"Whether it meant allowing for more quality health care to be done or having more resources available to them, that was the emphasis of addressing the health needs that our citizens were wanting to have addressed," George Tiger said.

Cerner

The impact that Cerner software purchased by MCNDH had on the financials was discussed during the planning session.

According to legislation reviewed by 'MNN,' $3 million was approved to purchase the software Jan. 29, 2014. Council approved the contract June 21, 2014.

"Cerner is the inpatient electronic medical record that's used for the Okmulgee hospital, Okemah hospital and I think the rehabilitation center," Floyd said.

A board member commented on the software.

"At the same time we did the hospital operations, we also changed our Cerner to our EHR, and with Cerner we have had many, many problems with actually being able to code… we are just now getting to a spot where we can actually see a growth in our income from there," the individual said.

In a March 22 interview with 'MNN,' Lucian Tiger said that Cerner slowed billing down, and was presented to Council as a reason for the deficit near the end of 2015.

"…But then we find out there's only a $6-$7 million that we were short on collections on bill-outs because of the transition. And obviously that wasn't going to make up for the deficit. So there was always an explanation of why we were in this red part and what was going to offset it.

"So, we were never told, 'no we don't have the income revenue coming in to offset the deficit.' That's something that we as a HEW committee and the Council as a whole were never informed of," Lucian Tiger said.

Lucian Tiger was on the Health, Education and Welfare Committee during the Council 18th session, which ended at the beginning of 2016.

An unverified board member commented on some of the issues with the software company.

"We let them know about our frustration in August of last year and during that meeting, we told them we weren't going to pay them anymore… but ever since then, we haven't paid any of our invoices up to that point.

"We've had talks with our attorney general, with their attorneys as well in trying to mediate some kind of agreement on our invoices and maybe any future payments we may owe them that I don't think we've come to a conclusion on that as of yet," a board member said.

Legislation reviewed by 'MNN' shows that the contract for Cerner was renewed Oct. 31, 2015 and updated Feb. 27.

'MNN' asked Floyd why the contract was renewed if the software had caused billing issues.

"I'm not sure why the contract was renewed. I think that was before I came on board… We do have a claim against Cerner and that's about the extent that I'm aware of it," Floyd said.

He said the health department would choose other software if the relationship with Cerner were to be dissolved, and that they were currently reviewing several other systems.

A health board member said the system would be beneficial in fixing the deficit.

"As soon as we can get Cerner turned over to where we can actually see a return in our investment for Cerner, then we will be able to have that financial impact," they said.

Overtime

During the planning session, Lucian Tiger asked a question regarding health department employees' overtime pay.

"When you see the list of the overtime, you see the first employee on there, salary's $59,000 and some change, and they made $65,000-$66,000 overtime in addition to that. That's common, normal practice?" he asked.

A board member stated the occurrence was not normal practice, to which Lucian Tiger responded with another statement regarding overtime pay.

"But there's nurses, there's directors, there's all kinds of, there's $120,000 employees making $70,000 in overtime," Lucian Tiger said.

An unverified health board member said some facilities were understaffed and shifts were filled with existing staff from other facilities.

"But if you're looking at that over a 15-year period, wouldn't you stop and think, 'hey, it's cheaper for me to hire somebody full-time than to pay somebody all this overtime,' " Rep. Randall Hicks said.

A board member responded, "I would say numbers like that probably didn't show up in the last year or maybe two."

Financial Understanding

George Tiger said he was unaware of a deficit within the health department when he left office.

"We did a lot of new, innovative ideas that were implemented. And if there was a deficit, certainly I and the members of the National Council would have known about it way back when," George Tiger said.

Lucian Tiger said during the planning session that Council would be held responsible for the reported health deficit.

"When this all comes out, it's going to come back on Council because, 'you voted for it, you passed it,' " he said. "Well the numbers presented to us, are not what were presented to us just now."

Rep. Adam Jones said he had concerns about the Nation's ability to pay for building new facilities.

"You know, I griped about the Okemah hospital… I didn't want to build it until we paid something else and I had that conversation with Seneca over and over about we couldn't afford that until we paid something off.

"And he said he could provide the numbers that would pay for it… And then he brought us the information that said that we could afford that and that we would pay for it out of third party (account). Well, none of those monies are there," Jones said.

He said there is a difference between needing new facilities and wanting to build them.

"And the proof's not there that on the needs analysis that we really need that… There's needs and wants. We want a new hospital over there.

"But did we need a hospital? Can we pay for a hospital? No we can't," Jones said.

A board member commented on the funding for new projects.

"I was asking if we could work out some kind of distribution reallocation to fund that project prior to it ever coming to forefront because I didn't foresee us being able to pay for it," they said.

The individual also commented on providing financial reports.

"I was asked not to speak on them towards the end of the summer and early part of the fall. I think there were those type of environment where election take effect," they said.

Lucian Tiger said Smith presented a deficit to the Council with explanations around fall 2015.

"Weren't we informed that it was third party revenue was going to offset that so on and so forth having issues with Cerner, that was the issue. That number wasn't a real number because the Cerner issue was causing a lot of that and Cerner when that came through correctly, it would offset that as well as the rest of the third party revenue," he said.

A board member responded, "I didn't present that to you."

According to TR 16-045 approving a $65.68 million loan to restore funds to the health department, the executive branch informed the Council of the reported deficit Feb. 18.

In further coverage of the reported health deficit, 'MNN' will review other documents and interviews obtained regarding MCN budgets, loans, audits and discussion of the issue by MCN officials.

Fractured Finances

May 1
$65 million loan approved to resuscitate health department

May 15
MCNDH budget increases 46 percent since 2013

June 1
Audit shows decrease of health department net position

Coming July 1
MCN considers options to restructure health department


2016
№42
MVSKOKE NATION FESTIVAL
CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX | OKMULGEE, OK
SATURDAY, JUNE 4
3:00PM MCN Scholarship Pageant
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 10-12
8:00 AM Golf Tournament (4-man scramble)
—Fountainhead Golf Course, Hwy 150, Checotah
FRIDAY, JUNE 17
6:30PM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_ADULT
—Mvskoke Dome, Claude Cox Omniplex
8:00 Tennis Tournament—Hawthorne Park,
1237 N. Okmulgee Avenue, Okmulgee
SUNDAY, JUNE 19
8:00AM Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
THURSDAY, JUNE 23
5:00PM Living Legends—Mvskoke Dome
6:30PM Stomp Dance
FRIDAY, JUNE 24
8:00AM Junior Olympics
— Harmon Stadium, 601 E. 12th, Okmulgee
Senior Citizens' Activities
—Senior Housing, Polokse Circle, Okmulgee
Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
9:00 Traditional Skills
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
10AM Children's Fun Fair
11AM-5PM Council House Art & Food Market
—Council House, 106 W. 6th, Okmulgee
5:00PM Arts & Crafts/Food Vendors
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAIMENT_BJ THOMAS
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_LEE GREENWOOD
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY, JUNE 25
7:30AM 5k Walk/Run
—E. Side of Mound, MCN Complex
8:00 Rodeo SLACK—Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena
Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament_YOUTH
—Mvskoke Dome
Corn Stalk Shoot_YOUTH
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Volleyball Tournament
9AM-4PM Council House Art & Food Market
10:00 Festival Parade, 6th Street, Okmulgee
Mike Berryhill Memorial Bow Shoot_ADULT
—W. of Mound, MCN Complex
Children's Fun Fair
Child Safety Seat Check—MCN Complex
10AM-2PM Health Fair
11:00AM Arts&Crafts/Food Vendors
3-6:00PM Creek Hymn Singing/Gospel Singing
—Mvskoke Dome
6:00 INFR Tour Rodeo Finals
7:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_BLUES TRAVELER
9:00 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT_BRET MICHAELS
FIREWORKS FOLLOWING ENTERTAINMENT
SUNDAY, JUNE 26
8:00AM Fast Pitch Softball Tournament
All events occur at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex unless otherwise noted.
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
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ENTER YOUR TEAMS INTO THE SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND REPRESENT YOUR CHURCH/COMMUNITY/BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION IN THE PARADE!
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Council

Continued from page 1

ing Terra Branson to the Board of Directors of Onefire Holding Company. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

Per the operating agreement, the Council will choose a person who meets the selection criteria.

The term for the board position ends May 21, 2019.

According to her LinkedIn profile, Branson has a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a Master's in public policy from Georgetown University. She is currently the director for Self Governance Communication and Education, and previously worked for the National Congress of American Indians.

According to www.tribalselfgov.org, she is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

• **TR 16-080 Confirming the nomination of Kathleen Supernaw to serve as an MCN Supreme Court justice. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Supernaw currently serves on the MCN Supreme Court, and her last term expired May 22. The resolution would nominate her for an additional six-year term.

According to her bio available at: http://tinyurl.com/zw4bj3c, she was confirmed to the MCN Supreme Court May 2010 and served as chief justice for the 2012 term.

She graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and worked in roles involving Indian affairs.

• **TR 16-061 Authorizing and establishing a review committee for the process of reviewing and recommending improvements to the MCN electoral process through MCN Code Annotated Title 19, titled, 'Election Code.' Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-2 with Reps. Dode Barnett and Deere voting against it.**

The 'Muscogee Nation News' received a copy of the substitute legislation passed during the session.

The review committee will provide recommendations to the Nation to streamline and improve the electoral process prior to the next election.

The committee would consist of five Muscogee (Creek) citizens, two selected by the principal chief, two by the Council and one by the Election Board. The members would not require confirmation by tribal resolution.

The original legislation assigned the fifth board member as a Carter Center Democracy Program designee.

The committee would be required to have monthly meetings open to Muscogee (Creek) citizens, make monthly reports to the Council, principal chief, second chief, Election Board and the Attorney General's Office every 30 days. A report would also be given to the Council's Health, Education and Welfare Committee every quarter.

The committee would be required to submit their final recommendations by Jan. 1, 2017.

Barnett said she felt that the legislation infringed upon the independent status of the Election Board.

"I feel that since the Election Board is a board that's given its authority through the Constitution, in other words given its authority by the people, I felt like since we're all sworn officials, we swear in to uphold the constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to set apart a board other than the Election Board to me is not upholding the Constitution.

"The Election Board all the ones who are over all of the election matters and so if there are changes to be made, the proper process would be to go through the Election Board," she said.

Deere echoed Barnett's sentiments in that the Election Board should review the election process.

"Our Election Board should have the responsibility to ensure that they're in compliance with our codes, our electoral codes and I just feel like we have to have faith that they're doing that," she said.

Deere said she would like to see reports from the Election Board so that Council can better assist with citizen questions and concerns.

Both representatives stated that monthly Election Board meetings are open to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The number for the board office is: 918-732-7631.

• **TR 16-067 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an end stage renal disease application with the Oklahoma Department of Health and Human Services. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The MCN Department of Health needs approval to apply for an end stage renal disease survey and certification for the Koweta Dialysis Clinic under the Medicare Program.

• **TR 16-069 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute an attestation required pursuant to the Federal Deficit Reduction Act. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The agreement is required in order to receive Oklahoma Health Care Authority payments. The agreement states that MCNDH will comply with the Federal False Claims Act and Oklahoma laws regarding false claims and false claim reporting.

• **TR 16-070 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an AT&T incumbent local exchange carrier service agreement with AT&T for the MCN Wetumka Indian Health Center. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

ILEC is a telephone company that provided local service prior to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 according to www.sctelcom.net.

• **TR 16-071 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a U.S. Department of the Interior of Indian Affairs business lease between the Nation and Big Time Billboards LLC. for the placement of a billboard on the Nation's property utilized by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Big Time Billboards would lease .0925 acres of tribal trust property for a five-year period.

• **TR 16-073 Authorizing the principal chief to submit an Indian Community Development Block Grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for rehabilitation of rental properties for the Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

If MCN receives the $800,000 in funds, it would be used for a low-rent rehabilitation project involving current MCN properties. The Nation would be required to match $200,000 in funds for the project.

• **TR 16-074 Confirming the nomination of Chris Ray to serve on the Gaming Operation Authority Board. Reps. Robert Hufft and Adam Jones sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The term will begin once the individual obtains the licensing required.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Ray has served on GOAB since 2008 and works for Henryetta Public Schools.

He has a bachelor's degree from East Central University and a Juris Doctrate from the University of Tulsa.

• **TR 16-075 Authorizing GOAB to execute a master services agreement and any related agreements with Sceptre Hospitality Resources LLC. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

Sceptre would provide reservation services for the new hotel at the Margaritaville-River Spirit resort.

• **TR 16-076 Authorizing GOAB to execute agreements with Gallagher Benefit Services and Scott McCoy Insurance Agency. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize the companies to provide health benefit program brokerage and consulting services.

• **TR 16-077 Authorizing GOAB to execute a project agreement for building environmental systems with Donohue Commercial Service. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize the company to provide and install three 10-ton cooling systems at One Fire Casino in Okmulgee.

• **TR 16-078 Authorizing GOAB to execute a master services equipment purchase agreement with Playnetwork. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to utilize the company to provide a playback device and software.

• **NCA 16-061 Appropriating $70,236.85 to Watts Partners for consulting and advisory services provided on behalf of MCN. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-2-2 with Reps. Mitch Jack and Randolph voting against it and Reps. Del Beaver and Randall Hicks abstaining.**

TR 12-056 authorized the principal chief to sign an agreement with Watts Partners of Washington, D.C. The principal chief terminated the agreement Jan. 13, and requested that invoices for final payment be sent to MCN.

$70,236.85 is the amount due to Watts Partners from MCN for services rendered.

'MNN' contacted Jack the morning of May 23 and was told he would call back for comment. No response was received as of press time.

'MNN' contacted Randolph the morning of May 23 and left a message. He returned the call that afternoon and left a message for a return call. 'MNN' called Randolph again the same afternoon and left a message. No response was received as of press time

A letter from Watts Partners addressed to Council Speaker Lucian Tiger, stated in the forward that the correspondence had enclosed, information requested by Tiger regarding the scope of services the firm provided for the tribe on its federal affairs from Jan. 1, 2015 – Jan. 31, 2016.

View the letter stamped received by the Council May 23 at: http://tinyurl.com/jqgeoxw.

• **NCA 16-064 Authorizing a $22,250 supplemental appropriation to the Higher Education Post-Graduate Program fiscal year 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The department is requesting funds in order to fulfill the estimated awards for summer 2016.

• **NCA 16-066 Authorizing a $14,400 special appropriation to the Weleetka Indian Community. Jack and Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Rep. Rufus Scott voting against it.**

Weleetka High School and the community are scheduled to host the sixth annual Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp, which teaches athletic, academic and life skills. The funds will be used to host the camp.

Scott said he asked the high school and community during the HEW committee session about other fundraisers to offset costs and was told no fundraisers had been held.

"And although it was for the kids and stuff, you know, I think we should teach kids too that there's things that they have to work for sometimes, not everything is a give me… I just felt like the other communities had fundraisers and stuff and didn't depend on the special appropriation to fund their football camp," he said.

• **NCA 16-067 Authorizing a $254,100 supplemental appropriation to the Higher Education Incentive Grants Program fiscal year 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The funds would be used to give incentive grants to 363 Muscogee (Creek) students that have met the 3.0 grade point average requirement through the program.

• **NCA 16-068 Authorizing a $26,673.14 supplemental appropriation to the Higher Education Doctorate Degree Program fiscal year 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The department is requesting funds in order to fulfill the estimated awards for summer 2016.

• **NCA 16-071 Amending MCNCA Title 19, Chapter 13 to add a new section 13-103, titled, 'Miscellaneous Provisions.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.**

The amendment would make the use of the Election Board's name, logo, telephone number or mark without their permission a misdemeanor.

Barnett made the motion to postpone indefinitely citing attorneys' concerns, and that the Election Board would bring a modified version of the amendment for review at a later date.

"They are going to rework it and bring it back, but they didn't want a time constraint, so they suggested that we postpone it indefinitely," she said.

• **NCA 16-073 Approving the 2017 Indian Housing Plan. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which was postponed one month.**

HUD requires the housing plan to be submitted for approval of compliance at least 75 days prior to the end of the fiscal year.

'MNN' contacted Randolph the morning of May 23 and left a message.

He returned the call that afternoon and left a message for a return call. 'MNN' called Randolph again the same afternoon and left a message. No response was received as of press time.

• **NCA 16-074 Amending NCA 15-049 (Authorizing a special appropriation to the MCN Tribal Transit Program for the purchase of one 18-seat bus and one Americans with Disabilities Act compatible mini-van). Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The original amendment allows the program to purchase vehicles from the State Contractors Buying Cooperative. The amendment for consideration adds the option to purchase other equipment as well.

• **NCA 16-075 Authorizing a $2.575 million appropriation for the restoration of the MCN Council House. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which**

Council - 7

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

passed 15-0.

The Council House, located in Okmulgee, is designated by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark and is eligible for tax credits from NPS and the state.

It is estimated that the Nation will recapture around $1 million for the cost of restoration.

• **NCA 16-076 Authorizing a $7,000 donation to the United Tribes for Christ Fellowship. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The organization was created in 1978 and has been holding camp meetings for over 30 years. They requested funds to be used for the May 31-June 7 meeting in Wewoka.

• **NCA 16-077 Authorizing a $6,439.98 special appropriation to Weleetka United Methodist Fellowship. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The church is requesting funds to assist with the purchase of a lawn mower.

• **NCA 16-078 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1-1 with Scott voting against it and Barnett abstaining.**

The organization has traveled around the U.S. for sporting events. The organization is requesting funds for repairs to its minibus so they can travel to local and national destinations.

Scott explained his vote.

"The information that I read on that, that I was given, I didn't see where any Mvskoke citizens were involved and stuff," Scott said.

He said he felt his duty is to provide for the Muscogee (Creek) people first.

• **NCA 16-079 Amending NCA 14-196 (Appropriating funds to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Okmulgee County). Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

NCA 14-196 authorized $440,000 for the purchase of 30 acres of land in Okmulgee County; $15,000 for incidental costs associated with the purchase and $203,052 for improvements, 'in order to make the facility Americans with Disabilities Act compatible.'

The amendment changes the wording to, 'as well as to make the facility ADA compatible.'

The legislation states that ADA renovations were completed, and the remaining funds were requested for use to fund non-ADA renovations.

• **NCA 16-080 Creating a new Chapter 9 under MCNCA Title 17, titled, 'Mvskoke Loan Fund Board.' Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

An oversight board is required in order to receive funds from different sources. The board will be made up of five members, two chosen by the principal chief and three by the Council. All members must receive Council confirmation.

The amendment also establishes requirements to hold a board position.

MLF was established by MCN as a Community Development and Financial Institution in order to promote economic development.

• **NCA 16-081 Authorizing the execution of an agreement with HHS Administration of Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement and appropriating $1,000 in relation to the agreement. Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The MCN Office of Child Support Enforcement wishes to utilize the HHS Federal Parent Locator Service to assist in locating participants in child support cases.

The amendment would approve the agreement and the cost associated with its use.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled June 18.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Lighthorse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wind said an agreement will be forthcoming.

"Yesterday (May 24), they set up a meeting and I just spoke with our AG and Kevin said things went very well," he said.

Hawkins gave a basic description on the limits of each agency's authority.

"Our jurisdiction is based on restricted or trust properties. Whenever we deal with, let's say, Indian-on-Indian crime that is ultimately our jurisdiction," he said. "We will handle that, whether it's tribal or federal, on arrests."

The title of trust land is held by the U.S. first, for the benefit of the individual or entity listed on the title document.

Most trust land within the MCN jurisdiction is assigned to the Nation.

Restricted land is the original allotment owned by citizens who meet the requirements.

Trust and restricted land are not taxed.

"When it comes to non-Indian violations on tribal property on trust, restricted lands, what our process is, is we respond to it. And once we realize that we're dealing with a non-Indian, we contact that other jurisdictional agency, which would be whatever county or municipality we may be in and they will come and take the situation with it being non-Indian," Hawkins said.

Hawkins shared other adjustments they are making at the department.

"I know we've been running shorthanded but we have been getting people hired in and we have built our progress," he said. "We are implementing new things into our department, being more proactive. We're stepping up to the plate and providing better protection for our citizens and getting a better status with the communities and other agencies. Just building on things."

He said Lighthorse is also getting ready to debut a new vehicle fleet of black patrol cars.

With a recent highly publicized case involving the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department that involved confusion over the intended use of a Taser, Wind said their officers have been undergoing training with the weapon.

"First and foremost, we make sure that all our officers are certified to carry that Taser. Like Chief Hawkins said, anything that we have, any munitions, weapons and so forth, we make sure that we have the proper training. But what we also have in-house, we have 11 CLEET (Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training) certified instructors," he said.

During times when traditional ceremonial activities are being conducted, Wind said their officers have been instructed to be respectful of the ways that ceremonial grounds use to deal with various situations.

"I spoke with one of our officers, who is a sergeant now, I spoke with him and I spoke with a couple of other officers that were more traditional and one of the things that they said was, 'You have to understand that, that grounds is pretty much their own jurisdiction. They will handle things in the way that they need to, whether it be a traditional way of someone's being 'hace' (drunk) or under the influence.' What I was instructed and what all our officers are instructed is you let them deal with that," he said.

Listen to this show, which will also take you to the 'Mvskoke Radio' archives at: http://tinyurl.com/ja6uwv3.

The show is broadcast every Wednesday at 10 a.m. on 1240AM, KOKL The Brew Okmulgee and a live stream of every broadcast can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/gmek4cb.

Mayoral

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

what we say, there's going to be consequences. And if you don't participate the way we want you to participate, there will be consequences. What consequences are you talking about? The Nation is a sovereign Nation and we need to be at the table sitting as equals."

MCN has placed a lot of money in the Tulsa and Jenks area along the Arkansas River. How do you plan to partner with MCN to make the area better for residents?

"The Arkansas River to me, is Tulsa's main drain. I think that we need to be respectful of the traditional Native respect for the land. We need to be very, very careful where we put the concrete for example. If we're going to do development on the river, all shareholders need to be listened to carefully."

"I would like to sit down with the Nation. I would like to have my people sit down with the Nation at some point and review what your plans are. And I'm going to place a lot of trust in the Nation to be respectful of land, to be respectful of traditional Native practices regarding land and respectful of traditional Native views toward what it is to be good stewards of the land. I appreciate what the Nation has done with the casino, the hotels and development going up, but I do have some concerns relative to the very large parking lots."

"I look at the Nation as being receptive to those ideas. I look toward the Nation to meet my administration halfway on those issues. I'll most certainly meet the Nation halfway on whatever new development plans they have along the Arkansas River to increase business into the casino, the hotels, etc."

Why would you be the best mayor for Tulsa and Muscogee (Creek) citizens?

"I feel a kinship. I feel a common DNA. I don't know how to say this without tearing up… I feel that the trauma in past history memories are passed down through the DNA… I don't really understand what's going on, but when I'm around a Native, I feel some sort of a metaphysical connection. And if that sounds really, really weird out there so be it."

"I don't really know what your plans are. I'm not that close to those discussions, the blue prints, etc., etc. But my approach is well, I will sit down with you and I will layout what I think should be done in it's natural state, respect the land for what it is. It's a prairie river. But I will treat you as an equal. I will treat you with a lot of respect. I will respect your traditions. I'm not familiar with them, but I will respect your traditions and I will respect your point of view."

"That's really what a lot of my campaign is about, to bring together peoples with two wildly different extreme point of view together and at least meet halfway. We're going to go home standing our ground on the things that are really important to us, but somewhere along the way we are going to meet halfway."

Do you have any Native American citizenship?

"My wife is Cherokee."

Closing comments.

"If there's any disagreement with me, I would like to know, through my website or through the phone. Any members of the Nation are welcome to contact me… and if you have any disagreements, if you like what I said, if you like my approach to it, if you don't like my approach to it, if you think I have absolutely no clue whatsoever, I'm good with it. I want to know. And that's the kind of approach that I'll take."

"Obviously I'm not very familiar with particular issues that the Nation has. I'm certainly not privy to the Nation's business plans along the river. And my strength is connecting dots from missing information and what I'm seeing of the efforts of the Nation along the river is there's intensive development that the Nation wants to do for the benefits of its members. But I also see some amount of respect for the land and Native traditions. I also see some amount of respect for new ideas that could improve the approach of development of the land."

"I welcome any criticism, complements, comments."

For more information about Tay, visit: www.facebook.com/iamwithpt.

Arbor Care seeking citizens to take wood chips

MCN Arbor Care/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Arbor Care Department is looking for citizens in need of woodchips at their homes for flowerbeds, gardens, etc.

These chips are from a variety of different trees that have been cut down and ran through a commercial chipper.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact one of the numbers below.

Please note that we must have a good access point to deliver and dump the chips.

Roads, driveways, etc. must be accessible for our trucks to get in and out of safely and without getting stuck.

For more information, one of the following can assist you: Oscar Hicks at: 918-752-8577, James Hicks at: 918-752-8014 or Phil Booker at: 918-732-7794.

MVTO

I would like to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Program employees for being very kind, respectful and helpful.

I especially want to thank the driver in Wetumka named Hart who always says hello.

You all deserve a raise.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen
Jeannie Harjo, Okmulgee

Reporter job open at Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Includes the following and other duties as assigned.

Receives assignment or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story ideas. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story lead through interview, observation and research.

Organizes material, determines slant or emphasis and writes story according to prescribed editorial style and format standards.

Edits or assists in editing for publications of the Muscogee Nation News (MNN).

Assists editor with news stories and updates for the newspaper by establishing Mvskoke Media within all tribal departments of Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) as well as communication with community centers, tribal towns and tribal churches within the MCN jurisdiction regarding content retrieval.

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or five years of experience in newspaper production.

Writes clearly, concisely and informatively. Edits work for spelling, grammar and Associated Press (AP) style. Presents numerical data clearly and accurately. Is able to read and interpret written information.

To perform this job successfully, an individual should have a basic knowledge of or a base knowledge to learn Macintosh computers and the Mac operating system (OS), Google platforms, mobile OSs, Acrobat, WordPress, InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Preference for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and then citizens of federally recognized tribes.

Contact

'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com or 918-732-7697.

Child Care Office public hearing set June 21

MCN OCC/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care has set a public hearing 6 p.m., June 21 for the Child Care Development Fund administered by OCC, at their office located in the MCN Child Development Center on the MCN Tribal Complex, U.S. Highway 75 and Loop 56. The fund is a program that provides financial assistance for income eligible Muscogee (Creek) and other Native American citizens toward their monthly child care obligations within the MCN service area.

Bigfoot: To be or not to be

Highland Park Manor
Non-citizen submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Now that the weather is warming up, I imagine more of us will be out in the woods camping, etc. My husband was a huge fan of Bigfoot so my interest was piqued as to how other seniors might feel about the big, hairy fellow. Just for fun, I found the following:

There have been 3,313 sightings of Bigfoot in the U.S. over the past 92 years, 92 of them in Oklahoma and thousands worldwide. Bigfoot is commonly thought to be a bi-pedal, undocumented primate species, anywhere from six-10 feet tall and weighing 400-1000 pounds, having long hair varying in color and a Sagittal Crest type head with no neck.

The number of eyewitness sightings are too numerous to be dismissed, many being from credible sources such as law enforcement, military and even U.S. President, Teddy Roosevelt.

Washington, D.C., passed a law in 1969 forbidding the killing of this creature, citing, 'there is evidence to indicate the possible existence of an undiscovered species of primate mammal.' The penalty carries a felony charge with fine of $100,000 or 10 years imprisonment.

If captured, it is to be immediately donated to the state college. In 1984, the bill was amended to preclude an insanity defense for killing the creature.

The world seems to be full of yet-to-be discovered species. Until October 1902, the Mountain Gorillas were thought to be a myth. It is estimated that there are some 2 million species identified on earth but in 2015 alone, scientists identified thousands of new species including wildlife, insects, amphibians and even some mammals including the African Golden Wolf.

Mysterious DNA showed bear species in the Himalayas related to an ancient polar bear.

Most hardcore non-believers say it will take a body to prove the existence of this creature, tangible, hands-on scientific evidence. Science readily accepts 'the wind' and 'the mind' as being scientifically sound but you can't see them either. Just saying! So as one of my dear friends relayed after a weekend outing in the woods of Tahlequah with a group of scouts; when you're out in the dark woods and you hear noises that are totally unexplainable, I'll keep an open mind, but my flight or fight response will be RUN.

MNN submission deadlines

July 1 — June 23

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 22

Aug. 15 — Aug. 8

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 7

Oct. 1 — Sept. 22

Oct. 15 — Oct. 6

Nov. 1 —Oct. 24

Nov. 15 — Nov. 7

Dec. 1 — Nov. 22

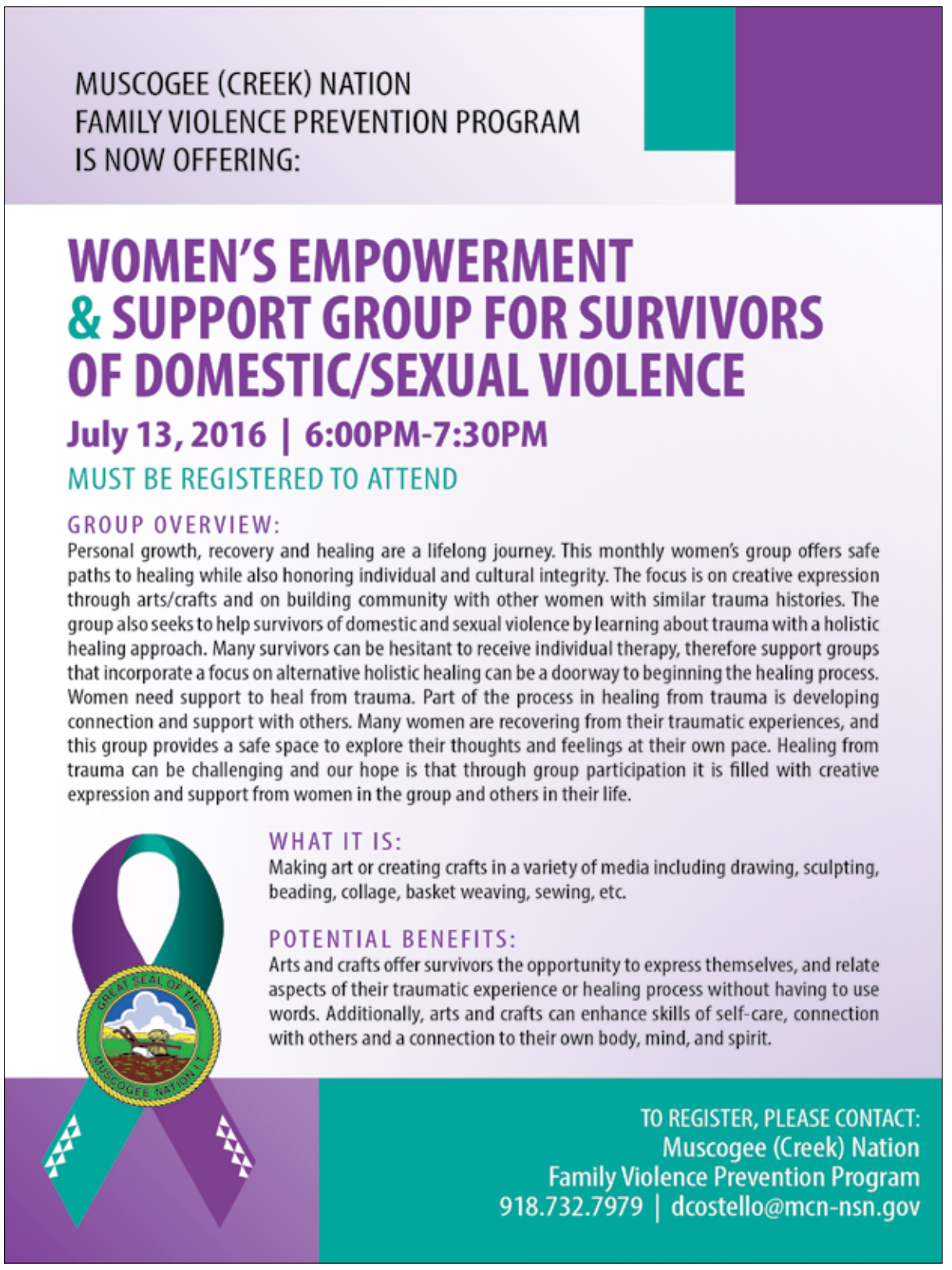
Benefit Powwow set for Oct. 1

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fifth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow is set for Oct. 1 at the Student Life Center, 2412 E. Shawnee Bypass, Muskogee OK.

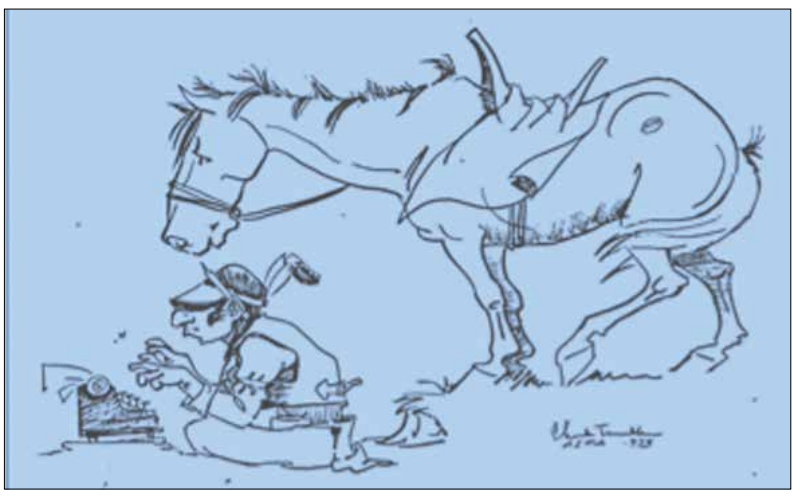
Admission is free and attendees are encouraged to bring seating.

For event information call: 918-682-2586.

Stevie G. Cosper
Editor







Emvpanyv

Continued from page 1

to make an exception to previous restrictions regarding footwear. Native American clothing, especially ceremonial attire (as in this case) can and should be considered appropriate for inclusion in our graduation exercises.'

Yazzie said it made her proud to include the moccasins in her commencement ensemble. Bear Robe thinks when NARF reminded school officials that their logo was the Chieftains, it made the school folks realize they had egg on their face and maybe a change of heart was appropriate.

But wait—there's more.

Change.org reported another case just like this one.

Dylan McCabe, a graduating senior at North Point High School in Waldorf, Md., is Comanche, Fort Sill Apache and Navajo. To celebrate her roots, she wanted to wear a traditional Navajo dress, leggings and moccasins to her June 2 graduation.

The school approved her request to wear the dress, since it will not be visible under her graduation robes. But since school administrators require flat or low-heeled black shoes, she was told she could not wear the moccasins or leggings.

What is it? Does the world have a thing about Dine' footwear or what?

Change reported, McCabe as saying, "My Navajo clothing is a reflection of my religious and cultural identity. My grandparents sent me this ceremonial dress and indicated that it was also appropriate for this occasion. My leggings and moccasins are what complete this ceremonial attire. They are essential to one another and sacred to me."

After Dylan's request was denied, her mom submitted an appeal to the Charles County School District superintendent and their board of education.

Dylan's request was approved and the latest reports indicate that McCabe was able to walk at graduation wearing the dress, moccasins and leggings from her grandparents.

So proud of these young women for standing up for their heritage.

There is another beautiful Native woman who will be walking across a prominent stage this summer. The 'Ruidoso News' ran an article about Vanessa Hernandez, a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. She is set to compete for the Aug. 4 Miss United States National Pageant. Hernandez already holds the title of Miss New Mexico.

'Indian Country Today' reports that the Florida State University student government association—home of the Fighting Seminoles, has passed a resolution request against the wearing of costume headdresses that are so often found at athletic events where the mascot is some sort of Native character.

The reason why? The student group stated that headdresses are not, 'accurately representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida.' The tribe has long approved the use of their name and a mascot dressed like a Seminole warrior. Nope, they don't wear plains style headdresses.

First lady Michelle Obama spoke at the graduation commencement for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.

In her speech, Obama referred to the misguided founding of the school and how that thinking has been overcome.

"As we all know, this school was founded as part of a deliberate, systematic effort to extinguish your cultures – to literally annihilate who you were and what you believed in. But today, the Native languages that were once strictly forbidden here now echo through the hallways and in your dorm room conversations at night.

"The traditions that this school was designed to destroy are now expressed in every square foot of this place – in the art on your walls, in the statue in your MSC building, in the Po Pay Day song and dance performances in your plaza, in the prayers and blessings that you offer in your heart room."

Nice thoughts. Mvto, Mrs. Obama.

Now to burst the bubble of John Wayne.

The deceased actor has not really been a favorite of many Native people but recently in California, a state legislative tribute to Wayne was shot down on the basis of 'racist' comments he made in an interview years ago.

The 'Washington Post' reported that a resolution for John Wayne Day was voted down, even after a legislator gave a passionate review of Wayne's personal convictions.

The objection came when one representative reminded the group that not everything that Wayne supported was so shiny.

In 1971, Wayne spoke to 'Playboy Magazine' about minorities. On the subject of African-Americans the actor said, "I believe in white supremacy until the blacks are educated to a point of responsibility."

On the subject of our peoples Wayne said, "I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them, if that's what you're asking. Our so-called stealing of this country from them was just a matter of survival. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

Take that, Pilgrim.

On to a more tasty subject.

Clara Caufield, a columnist at the 'Cheyenne Voice' wrote about the Cheyenne people's love of commodity cheese.

She called it "the gold standard of cheese" and that it was a very popular ingredient with tribal chefs. That's "chefs" not "chiefs," although it is most likely popular with them too.

Caufield writes that the blocks of cheese are also a part of an underground commerce and can sell for $20.

When one cheese recipient was questioned on how they keep this precious 'commod' from being swiped by some unscrupulous cheese addict, Caufield wrote that the lucky Cheyenne said, "We hide the cheese." When asked where, the cheese owner said, "Oh no. If I tell you, you will put it in the newspaper and they will find out."

I know the feeling. Every time I'm assigned to do a story on Food Distribution, I'm tempted to stash a block in my recorder bag.

Oh, such fond memories of grilled cheese sammiches.



- Hvtvm cehecares, I'll see you again.

Foster

Continued from page 1

"The thing is, we don't only certify Creek homes. We certify all tribal nations," Dunn said. "If you have a tribal citizenship card, we would hook you up and certify you."

Dunn said her program understands the apprehension many people have with opening their homes.

"But we're there to help them," she said. "We are very proactive in being in the home with our foster families. They have our numbers. They can call us anytime."

Dunn said they have asked existing foster families for help with finding more homes.

"That when you see families that are on the soccer field or at church to kind of do some recruitment for us as well," she said. "If you see that they are doing great, awesome parents, that we would love to talk to them."

CFSA hosted a drive with Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise at the MCN Travel Plazas May 23-30, to collect basic needs items for foster children in recognition of foster care awareness month.

"They can definitely come into our offices and donate throughout the whole year," Dunn said.

CFSA is looking for items such as toiletries, duffle bags as well as clothes and asks that everything is new.

"Just like for our own children, we would want great items for them so that's what we are asking for," Dunn said.

For more information about donations or becoming a foster parent call: 918-732-7869.

This interview was brought to you by 'Native News Today,' which airs every Saturday at 1 p.m. on Tulsa CW19 or online at: http://tinyurl.com/hpomqc5

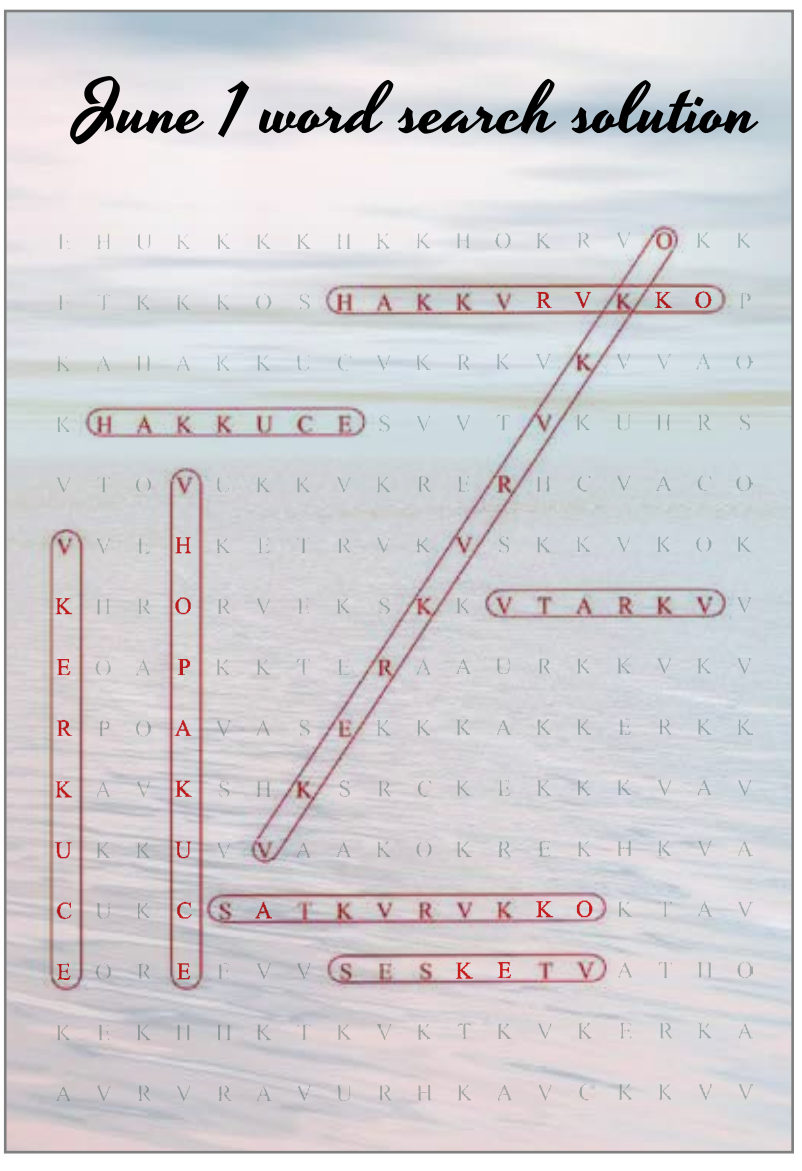
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.

CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
- ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
- CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
- ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
- VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.









OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation Department held traditional arts classes May 9-13 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee.

Participants had the opportunity to learn finger weaving, cane basket weaving and how to make stompdance cans. For more information about the classes, including upcoming dates call: 918-732-7758.

Photos and Spread by: Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist





IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of H. Q. A.,	)	FILED 2016 MAY 20 PM 3:32
	)	Case No. GD-2016-17
A Minor Child.	)	Honorable Judge John T. Cripps

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: MIKE ALLEN

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the above named minor child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-17, styled *In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of H. Q. A., A Minor Child.* The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a final decree of guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 5th day of August, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 20 day of May, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District

By: Jessi Morton (Deputy)

DRU R. TATE, MCN#696
Greuel Law Firm, PLLC
8811S. Yale Ave., Ste. 400
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137
918-728-2699 - telephone
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: T.Z.F	)	Case No. GD-2015-37
Minor Child.	)	

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Unknown Biological father

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-37, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: T.Z.F.., the minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 12th day of August, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 3 day of June, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Jessi Morton (Deputy)

Approved:

J. Nicci Unsicker, MCN #590
Unsicker Law
2616 S. Pittsburg Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74114
918-344-7606
Attorney for the Petitioner
Attorney for Petitioner



2016 Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation crowned



Chelsie Rich/MNN

2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Brittany McKane (left) and Jr. Miss Madeline Lamb (right) with MCN Principal Chief James Floyd (far left) Second Chief Louis Hicks (middle right) and MCN National Council Speaker Lucian Tiger (far right) during this year's MCN Scholarship Pageant held June 4 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

McKane, Lamb capture titles

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2016 Miss and Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant was held June 4 in the Mvskoke Dome at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

"It's a big process. Actually, our pageant committee work year around. We don't ever stop planning for this big day," Pageant Committee chairperson Terra Beaver said.

After hours of competition, Brittany McKane was crowed Miss MCN and received a $5,000 scholarship, among other prizes.

"I was shocked… It feels amazing now having getting over that initial shock. I'm just really excited and happy for this opportunity." McKane said.

Madeline Lamb was crowned Jr. Miss MCN and received a $1,500 scholarship, among other prizes.

"I feel ecstatic. I'm so excited that I was chosen to be Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation and it's just an honor," Lamb said.

Beaver spoke of different strategies they had for this year's pageant.

"What we did different was go around to different communities. We promote other pageants, talked about our guidelines and recruiting contestants," Beaver said. "We just want to reach out beyond our jurisdiction… looking for girls who want this opportunity."

Beaver said that by reaching out to the community, the committee was able to inspire 13 young ladies to come forth to compete.

Five contestants ages 17-24 competed to be Miss MCN, Bailee Allen, ShawnDea Dunzy, Amberly Proctor, Baileigh Roberts and McKane.

Eight contestants ages 14-17 competed for the title of Jr. Miss, Angel Hartley, Claudia McHenry, Olivia Kinsey, Kierra Monawee, Tesha-LaShay Phillips, Kayla Broncho, Danielle LaSarge and Lamb.

Family, friends, citizens and visiting royalty gathered in support to witness the crowning and the pageant committee also invited former MCN royalty to attend a retreat and the pageant.

According to the event program, each contestant had to write an essay, give a personal interview with the judges, prepare a self-introduction, wear traditional dress, give a traditional presentation and answer an impromptu question.

It states MCN royalty serve as representatives of the Nation and positive role models for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.





Former Miss MCN competes for Miss Indian World



MNN File Photo

2012-2013 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nancy Deere competed in the 2016-2017 Miss Indian World Pageant during the Gathering of Nations Powwow held April 28-30 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Deere discusses work with US energy department, democratic convention

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nancy Deere took her royalty experience to the national level by competing in the 2016-2017 Miss Indian World Pageant held during the 2016 Gathering of Indian Nations Powwow April 28-30 in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I meet a lot of different people from, in this case I met people from all over the world," Deere said. "I've had the opportunity to meet women from different tribes. People that I still keep in touch with today."

She said tribal royalty positions have more to them than the aesthetic appeal most people see in pictures.

"We serve as goodwill ambassadors," Deere said. "That's what we call ourselves and we serve throughout the country going to different events but a lot of people look at it as we're just kind of going and smiling but behind the scenes, we're educating people all over the country about who we are."

Deere has also pursued this mission of education at home by helping coordinate a camp for the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council.

The MNYC mission statement is, 'to empower Mvskoke Youth by listening and taking action, to enhance their voice by promoting positive change and informed decisions and to affect all generations and sustain the way of life.'

She said the camp was modeled after conferences hosted by her grandfather, the late Native activist Phillip Deere and held on their family allotment in Okemah.

"Well it started with my grandpa Phillip Deere," she said. "He started the youth and elder conferences and he had started it at his house on his mother's original allotment and he had built a roundhouse for it and the roundhouse was historically used as historical gathering places."

A roundhouse was funded and recreated there by MCN in 2014.

"We stayed inside the roundhouse for the night and we kept the fire going all night and just fellowshipped with each other and grew culturally together and I think that was the main part of it," Deere said.

She said members of her family helped with the culturally immersive experience.

"My uncle came down and spoke about, not only history of the roundhouse but also our history at the ceremonial grounds and how to be respectful," Deere said. "And my dad came out and spoke about stickball and telling us you know, it is a game but how to be respectful of each other while playing."

Beyond the pageant, she has built networking opportunities through a Hope Fellowship with the Democratic National Convention.

"I'm a political science major, so I knew what I was applying for but I wasn't sure I was going to get it," Deere said.

According to the Democratic National Convention website, the fellowship is a crash course in politics where selected participants have the opportunity to hear from campaign officials and DNC leadership.

"I met some amazing people headed to law school, already in law school and just leaders in their states," she said. "Being able to network with them, in building those relationships now, they are our future leaders. I say they, but we are our future leaders and I totally see myself in that capacity one day."

She has already made inroads through an internship with the U.S. Department of Energy focusing on Native American energy policy and programs.

"I think it's going to be great because I see the future of Creek Nation moving forward in today's world," Deere said. "We need to better match policies and procedures with the federal government as well. We are sovereign but being able to match it in a way that we can run more smoothly."

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

July 1, 2016 "Hiyuce" Little Harvest

Vol. 46, Issue 13



Brittany McKane selected as Miss MCN

Madeline Lamb selected as Jr. Miss MCN

— Page 2

A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Council approves $5 million increase for RSC Margaritaville expansion

Funding for Okmulgee golf course development postponed indefinitely

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held June 18 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• TR 16-079 Authorizing and ratifying certain investment consulting services brochure, agreement and addendum, and a Merrill Lynch investment advisory program client account agreements with Merrill Lynch and authorizing the principal chief to execute a Merrill Lynch consulting services client agreement and addendum with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith incorporated (MLPF&S) and related documentation for investment advisory services as described in the Merrill Lynch agreement and amendment with MLPF&S and managed account advisors (MAA) LLC and related documentation for investment advisory and other services as described in the Merrill Lynch investment advisory program brochure, agreement and amendment. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Rep. David Hill voting against it.

The legislation would allow MCN to pursue additional investment opportunities with the Permanent Fund through MLPF&S.

• TR 16-082 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a renewal application with the Oklahoma State Department of Health for a diagnostic X-ray permit for each MCN

Council - 5

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

Natives at the White House, 21-arrow salute, new OK Indian art law

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma Native Women were part of the guests invited to the recent United State of Women Summit in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac in mid-June.

The Summit was to celebrate what achievements have been made in the fight to protect women and families against domestic and outside violence as well as what plans could be made to continue that struggle.

Our own Shawn Partridge, Director of the Family Violence Prevention Program represented the Muscogee (Creek) Nation among the thousands of women selected to attend.

But a young Cherokee woman, Cierra Fields was one of eight women recognized by the White House.

According to the 'Cherokee Phoenix,' Fields is a survivor of rape and shared

Emvpanayv - 3



Jessica McBride/MNN

An extraordinary session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 21 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla., to discuss and address a reported budget deficit at the MCN Department of Health.

Fractured Finances: MCN considers options to restructure health department

Council representatives call for accountability, evaluations

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An extraordinary session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 21 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee to discuss and address a reported budget deficit at the MCN Department of Health.

During the session, documents were provided that listed several options to realign MCNDH structure, operations and services, as well as reduce expenses.

Options being considered can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/js6pzhc.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested interviews with MCN health and financial officials for clarification about information obtained through documents, meetings and interviews.

'MNN' was granted an interview with MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

The Public Relations Department requested a list of questions be sent for review prior to the interview.

The interview can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/j7np5mu.

In the interview, Floyd discussed cutting the number of health governing board positions.

"My plan if I had a magic wand and could change it, I would reduce the number… And that way I think we

Health - 4

MCN hosts three-year plan meeting

Public comment period ended June 28

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a three-year plan meeting June 14 at the National Council chambers in Okmulgee.

MCN Assistant Controller Kathy Guthrie led the meeting.

According to MCN Code Annotated Title 37, Subchapter 4, Section 2-453, titled 'Tribal Judgment Funds,' 'On or before June 1, 1986 and every third year thereafter, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall hold a Public Hearing to present a proposed Three-Year Plan for discussion and comment by Muscogee (Creek) Indians.'

The subchapter also explains other requirements dealing with judgment funds from Dockets 169, 272, 277 and 309.

Guthrie said that the three-year plan money comes from tribal judgment funds awarded during a

Plan - 3

Okmulgee brings back Pecan Festival after 10-year hiatus



'Native News Today'

Okmulgee, Okla., rebooted the Pecan Festival June 10-11 after 10 years.

Event deemed success by planning committee

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After feeling the absence for 10 years, citizens of the Okmulgee community reignited the Pecan Festival.

Okmulgee Pecan Festival Committee Co-Chair Scott Fetgatter said that the festival began in 1984, and was at one time the fourth largest festival in the state.

"We felt like with the resurgence, the Okmulgee Rising campaign and everything that's going on with Creek Nation and Main Street, the Chamber, OSUIT (Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology), that it was time for Okmulgee to be able to live that revival of the Pecan Festival again this year," he said.

Okmulgee Pecan Festival Committee Co-Chair Rod Wiemer said the Muscogee (Creek) Nation provided recycling, electrical and monetary support.

He said the entire event was centered around the Council House.

"If we didn't logistically have the Council House as the center of Okmulgee, it just wouldn't be Okmulgee," Wiemer said.

MCN spokesperson Geebon Gouge said the Office of Public Relations contributed a $5,000 advertising sponsor-

Pecan - 2



Chelsie Rich/MNN
Madeline Lamb was crowned Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 4 during this year's MCN Scholarship Pageant at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Madeline Lamb selected as Jr. Miss MCN

Winner focuses on teen dating violence prevention

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 2016 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation Madeline Lamb, 17, hit it off with 2016 Miss MCN Brittany McKane before they were even crowned.

"We were roommates at the Pageant Retreat and so like I didn't know her beforehand but we got along really well like right off the bat," Lamb said. "Whenever we came up there (tribal complex) yesterday, it was like we were friends forever."

Lamb won the title June 4 during the 2016 MCN Scholarship Pageant held at the Mvskoke Dome.

"I believe that I was just very open to questions and talking to everybody," she said. "I'm not afraid to say what's on my mind and stand up for issues and stand out there."

Lamb said her main platform is teen dating violence prevention, having won several of the art contests held at MCN for this cause.

"I got more interested in it and went and talked to Katie Kelley down at Family Violence Prevention before the pageant and I talked to her about how that was my main goal," she said.

Beyond this, Lamb said she enjoys helping with animal based programs.

"I volunteer at the Humane Society quite often and I'm a part of Operation K-9, which is a non-profit organization that we actually started working with at our school last year," she said. "What it is, is it takes the students in our school and we train our dogs for veterans so they have assistance for free."

Lamb will be a senior at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah where she is student council president, in the National Honors Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Honoring Our People's Existence club.

"…Which is like a Native American club and I'm the photographer for that," she said.

Apart from Family Violence Prevention and the Mvskoke Nation Youth Council, Lamb has been active in the MCN Language Preservation Program. She said she was inspired to participate in the pageant by attending classes with her grandfather.

"He started getting me more involved with my community and background telling me cool stories about my great-grandparents," she said. "And it just really interested me and I felt like if I really try for this, I might get it and get to learn more about our culture."

Her mother Rita Courtwright is an instructor at the College of the Muscogee Nation and also motivated Lamb to compete.

"She was like, 'it's a great opportunity. It looks good on scholarships.' It's a scholarship pageant you know. It focuses on school and everything," she said.

Lamb won a $1,500 scholarship at the event and said she plans to attend Oklahoma State University to pursue a career in nursing.

"I've always been driven towards helping others," she said.

Pecan

Continued from page 1

ship to the event.

"What really speaks volumes to me is you have your own festival that's coming up in a few weeks and so you didn't have to participate," Fetgatter said.

Fetgatter compared the festival relaunch to coming out into the world after a week of sickness.

"And then you get up one day because you feel a little bit better… you walk outside and it's like new life has been breathed into you," he said. "Well, it's like our community had been sick for a while, and now, now we're do-



ing things to get the community out of their homes and back into that environment of community where they're visiting and seeing old friends and doing these old things.

"And that's why I think festival like the Pecan Festival are so important for a community is to keep that spirit of community alive," Fetgatter said.

Wiemer said that the Pecan Festival has taken him back to his younger days.

"It's been hard work, but there's been nothing more gratifying," he said.

Wiemer said that they are already planning for next year's event.

"I think it's only going to be bigger and better next year, and the years to come afterwards," he said.

View 'Native News Today' coverage at: http://mvskokemedia.com/okmulgee-brings-back-pecan-festival-after-10-year-hiatus/.



Chelsie Rich/MNN
Brittany McKane was crowned 2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 4 during this year's MCN Scholarship Pageant held at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Brittany McKane selected as Miss MCN

Winner touts cultural, civic involvement

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As a 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant winner, Brittany McKane, 19, is heavily active in her culture and academia.

"I'm involved in the American Indian Student Association at OU (University of Oklahoma) and this fall, I will be an officer of Gamma Delta Pi, which is the Native American sorority at OU.

"I really loved being involved with different things and with UNITY (United Nations Indian Tribal Youth), we like to go out in the community and help," she said.

She is also female co-president of the Many Nations Youth Council in Norman and is majoring in Native American studies and anthropology with a minor in social justice.

These interests and studies showed during the pageant as she told a traditional Mvskoke folktale about being grateful and answered a question about the importance of voting.

"It allows us to have a voice in our government," she said during the event. "Things cannot change if you don't use your voice. It gives us a chance to govern ourselves as sovereign people."

She shared a hope to facilitate positive change through being a role model.

"I have 17 nieces and nephews," McKane said. "I have felt growing up my whole life, knowing that there are people who look up to me and aspire to be like me. It pushes me to be a better person."

McKane brought this back to the importance of school and traditional values.

"I just really want to uplift them and show them that if they are in touch with their culture and their education, then they can achieve anything," she said.

"It wasn't so much about showmanship or anything like that. It was about how you are connected to Mvskoke culture."

— 2016 Miss MCN Brittany McKane

She credited her achievement at the pageant to being educated on tradition.

"It wasn't so much about showmanship or anything like that," McKane said. "It was about how you are connected to Mvskoke culture."

McKane said she enjoyed being around the other contestants who shared a similar interest in this.

"I mean they were amazing and I think any of them would have been great to represent our Nation," she said.

She acknowledged that the challenge is not over despite her victory.

"It is a lot of pressure but it's something that I'm very excited to do," McKane said.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Plan

Continued from page 1

case in the 1970s when the Nation filed suit against the federal government regarding land ceded during a treaty.

She said the suit awarded MCN $6.9 million. The interest is estimated to total $797,400, divided to $265,800 per year for the next three years.

"The tribe in turn said instead of using the principal, they would invest the funds and use the interest to operate some tribal programs with," Guthrie said.

Guthrie said the programs allowed to utilize the funds are tribal government, tribal programs, economic development, social welfare and higher education.

According to Code, the National Council must approve expenditure of the funds.

"The last three years it was used for burial through social services. I think the prior years, it was also used for burial," Guthrie said. "Since it's such a small amount of funds, that's what everybody opted to use the money for since it did service a lot of people."

Guthrie said MCN is only allowed to spend the interest, and not the principal amount of the funds.

She explained that the funds are separate from the Comprehensive Annual Budget.

"This is separate from our CAB ordinance because this is a different pot of money that's not in the CAB and we have to like I said do this every three years and that's set by our own tribal laws," Guthrie said.

She also said the funds are different from those associated with the permanent fund and that they are held in trust through the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

> **"The last three years it was used for burial through social services."**
>
> **— MCN Assistant Controller Kathie Guthrie**

Guthrie said she is working with the MCN Attorney General's Office to see if the funds can be moved under control of the Nation so that MCN can invest the funds and potentially receive additional interest.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested the number of citizens that utilized this service in the past from MCN Public Relations and Social Services and did not receive a response as of press time.

According to the tribal burial portion of the MCN website, citizens can receive up to $3,000 for burial assistance from the Nation.

The deadline for public comments was June 28.

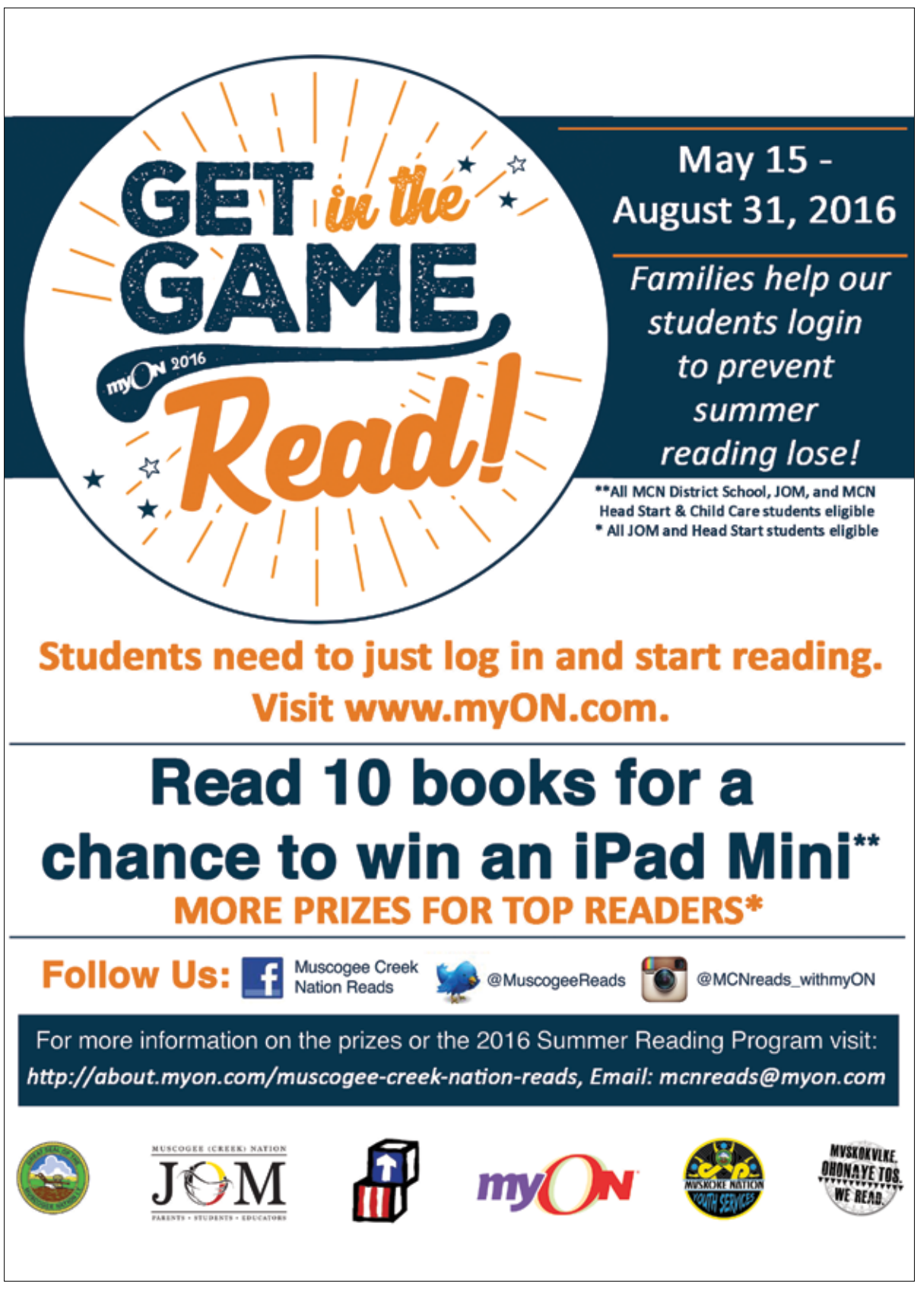
Guthrie said that distribution of the funds can only be changed every three years.

A notice of the public hearing was sent out through the MCN employee email system the morning of June 7.

According to an MCN Public Relations statement issued June 9, the notice was posted to the department's Facebook page, marquee and the Nation's website.

'As, far as what percentage of the citizens would have seen this Notice of Public Hearing our office is confident with these outlets and resources that we have reached a large portion of not only our citizens, but also any interested party,' the statement said.

The statement also said that the meeting would be live streamed on the Nation's website. An MCN Public Relations Facebook post time stamped at 9:58 a.m. on June 14 stated that the meeting had been relocated from the Mound Building auditorium to the Council Chambers with no access to live feed capabilities and apologized for any inconvenience.



Emvpanayv

Continued from page 1



her story among the groups attending the summit with some poignant words and specific ideas.

"As a survivor myself, I shared my thoughts in our groups encouraging the increase in the statute of limitations, more transparency in the legal system regarding sexual assaults, improved training for DA (district attorney) when dealing with victims and proper sentences for those convicted of rape. Rapists need to be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

More power to these strong women, you make us proud.

A new Oklahoma law will determine who is and who ain't an Indian artist in this state.

House Bill 2261, which was signed by Gov. Mary Fallin, is going to tighten up regulations about who can call themselves an Indian artist and who cannot. It will also overshadow the current federal Indian arts and crafts law.

It would boil down to having only citizens of federally recognized tribes being able to label their work as Indian.

As written, it would affect members of the Euchee Tribe; individuals with multiple tribal lines from blood quantum tribes in Oklahoma and beyond who require one-half, one-quarter, and one-eighth degree for enrollment, but because of not possessing enough Indian ancestry from one particular tribe, are unable to enroll.

Euchees would most likely have to claim Muscogee citizenship.

It would also include members of historic "non-federal" tribes currently residing in Oklahoma, Canadian, Mexican and South Americans, and members of tribes whose status was dissolved by the federal government during the Termination Period of the 1940s to 1960s and who have not been reinstated today.

The bill came from Chuck Hoskin and John Sparks, both citizens of the Cherokee Nation and with support from Principal Chief Bill John Baker. The Cherokee tribe has often been the target of people claiming Cherokee identity but not being enrolled.

The new law is to include those in visual and performing arts or literature as well as the graphic arts. It is bound to create battles over such questions as blood quantum and interpretation of some citizenship laws.

'Indian Country Today' reports, in a June ceremony, Native Americans buried at the Hiawatha Indian Insane Asylum in South Dakota were honored by a salute of arrows fired over their graves by a team of archers at the site of the former Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians in Canton, S.D.

Instead of a military rifle squad, the 21-arrow salute was fired by a team from Nebraska Indian Community College as part of an intertribal ceremony held at the fifth annual Honoring and Remembering Ceremony for Native Americans for the 121 Indians buried there.

A history entry from the South Dakota government website states, 'The Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians was established by the U.S. Congress in 1899, officially opened in 1903, and closed in 1934 after federal investigations found, not just outdated, but inhumane treatment. The asylum was only the second federal insane asylum and the first to be dedicated to an ethnic group. Around 374 Native Americans from 50 tribes across the country were brought here.'

According to Wikipedia, 'Canton Indian Insane Asylum (by which the institution was also known), patients were kept under horrific conditions and a number of them deemed legally sane after examinations. That hellhole was finally closed in 1934.'

Mvto (thank you) to all those who organized and participated in that ceremony.

There are some new rules regarding foster care placement of Indian children and the Indian Child Welfare Act. These federal rules require more background checks, eliminates consideration of a child's blood quantum during placement and other regulations designed to strengthen ICWA.

Perhaps these changes will eliminate future emotional battles over the placement of children with non-Native families and avoid the media circus that has accompanied those stories.

OK, let's shift subjects to something much brighter.

There was a Native American presence among the mourners for the late Muhammed Ali.

According to Syracuse.com, Oren Lyons, faith keeper for the Onondaga Nation also delivered a eulogy for the boxing legend. Lyons noted Ali's support for Native American issues and called Ali a "brilliant man."

Did you attend the 2016 Muscogee Nation Festival? Were you one of the folks with greasy lips and fingers from taklik sakmorke (fry-bread?)

The Festival is growing more popular each year. Some of the comments heard about the Festival were about the change in the entertainer line-up from years of older 'MoTown'-type groups to more current musicians. But, for us older folks, the Festival even had B.J. Thomas ('Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head'), a guy I remember when he was new.

OK, Hvtvm Cehecares — I'll see you again.

Health

Continued from page 1

could have decisions made a little more efficiently," he said.

View the previous story regarding the health governing board at: www.mvskokemedia.com/fractured-finances-health-governing-board-discusses-lack-of-financial-transparency/.

Floyd said he was not sure if additional revenue is being generated from MCNDH facility additions in the last several years such as the MRI located at the medical center in Okmulgee.

Former MCN Principal Chief George Tiger discussed the reported health deficit in an April 27 interview with Mvskoke Media.

The interview can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/tiger-speaks-former-chief-addresses-reported-health-deficit/.

George Tiger said that he is proud of building the MRI center.

"…We did that because we were having to resource that out and were paying millions of dollars," he said. "Now that money can be kept locally and recycled to maybe do some other programs with the money that we're making off of it."

During the session, Floyd recommended seeking an outside review of the department.

"I think immediately we should seek a contractor or contract group to come in, begin to go through this information to make sure that there's validity to the numbers that we've seen and that these options are either acceptable options or ones that we discard and maybe go with others.

"The sooner that, that can be brought in, I think the sooner that we can begin to save costs," Floyd said.

He also spoke about changes that have been implemented.

"As you know, human resource, our capital is the highest portion of the budget between 70 and 80 percent," Floyd said. "As you may be aware, we did reduce the overtime I think late last month (February) and scaled that back and so already things are occurring."

Overtime is further addressed in the 'MNN' coverage of the March 15 Council planning session, and can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com/fractured-finances-health-governing-board-discusses-lack-of-financial-transparency/.

Floyd said that changes must be made in order to fix the reported deficit.

"I cannot come back to you guys again and say we need more money," he said. "We have got to go out and earn our way out of this situation."

During the session, Rep. Randall Hicks commented on accountability.

"And to me, somebody's got to be held responsible for this. I mean, I have a hard time accepting that the governing board was not aware of this deficit. I mean, to me it's business.

"It should be run like a business. If I'm in a position, I'm held accountable for what I'm responsible for… people's got to be held accountable. It's just the bottom line," Hicks said.

Rep. Mark Randolph said it was a terrible feeling when he learned about the reported deficit.

"I don't want to sit here and go back and forth with who's fault it is. We did ask questions. We did ask for financials.

"We were locked out of the financial system where our financial officer, she couldn't even get in there and pull up this information. And so we were kept in the dark," he said.

In an April 15 interview with Mvskoke Media, Floyd said the executive branch communicates financial information to the Council on an almost daily basis.

"Either they request it or we sent it over because we want them to be informed," he said. "So we're sending over quite a bit of information so that they can have it and make the appropriate decision."

George Tiger said that his administration provided reports to the Council.

"Any reports that we get, whether it's the administration or the Executive Branch Office, the Council gets it too," he said. "And if either of us felt at that time that we saw that, that it was something of grave concern, certainly it would've been addressed."

George Tiger said that as a former Council representative, Council and its committees have responsibility and oversight over aspects of MCN.

"I will say this, being a former speaker, one of my pet peeves as a speaker was there were times that a lot of my colleagues didn't read what was in front of them," he said. "And I used to jokingly say, 'I'm going to quit printing things out because you don't read them.' "

He said he does not know if this is the case with the current situation and reported health deficit.

Rep. Rufus Scott called for employee evaluations.

"People are in places because they're certain peoples' relatives. They're certain peoples' friends… And I think all these people that are in these positions need to be re-evaluated too," Scott said.

George Tiger said that in order to improve the quality of health care for citizens, his administration increased salaries and provided relocation expenses in order to recruit employees.

"We couldn't keep good health professionals… There was some other things that we had to do to be able to recruit and for lack of a better term, entice people, our own citizens by the way, that wanted to come home," he said.

George Tiger said that this move is standard practice in the medical field and in the corporate world.

"Because one of the things that we said was we're going to have to operate our tribe as a corporate because basically that's what we are. We just happen to be a tribal government," he said.

George Tiger said he believes that the purchases of the former Okmulgee Memorial Hospital and the George Nigh Rehabilitation Center was the right choice.

"…I think that any time you're seeking to improve quality of health care, you do whatever you can to move forward progressively and positively," he said.

'MNN' reached out to former MCN Secretary of Health Seneca Smith for comment March 30, April 7 and April 20, and left voicemails requesting a call back. Smith has not returned any phone calls as of May 9.

George Tiger said he has been in contact with Smith and that Smith is unable to comment on the situation due to his federal employment status.

Floyd issued a statement March 22 about realigning the health department and plans to fix the reported deficit issue.

'We are now starting the process of making decisions with an outside health source to help lead quality/access/cost-saving initiatives. Right now our goal is to ensure the quality health care with our health system.'

The process is expected to take 12-18 months.

'MNN' requested a statement from MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger March 21 regarding the potential for legal actions dealing with the reported deficit.

'The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of the Attorney General will continue to monitor and assess the MCNDH Budget Deficit. At this time, we do not have any further comments.'

MCNDH has set up contact information for citizens who have ideas and solutions regarding the realignment of the department.

Citizens may send an email to: healthbudget@creekhealth.org, call: 918-756-4333 ext. 271 or mail a letter to: MCN Department of Health, Attention Chief Legislative Officer John Beaver, P.O. Box 400, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

NAK WENAHOKV- Insects

KOLEPPA — Firefly
TVFFOLOPV — Butterfly
KVSVSV — Cicada
CULOTKV — Cricket
TVPVSSOLV — Daddy Longlegs
ESTAKKV — Bed Bug
FO TENETKE — Bumble Bee
KVFKO — Flea
TVFFO — Grasshopper
OKYEHA — Mosquito
RONO — Horsefly
TVKOCA — Ant
FO — Bee
WASKO — Chigger
CANV — Fly

C U L O T K V T K V T K V F T O T V
V N V V V A V T V O N V P V A T V F
E V P V V E V O R P L O R T S O F K
K E O F K R T K E V V E R O N O F T
F S O K P V V A H Y V S P T V V O F
O T A S N T P S U T C W S O S E L E
T A V A O P A O E A F A R O S V O F
E K C S E W A P O K Y S O K L F P A
N V F L F C E T V O N K F T N V A K
E O O S O V N V F A O O T K V F K O
T K F K N O O F F K O K V S V S V L
K V V V V T V F F O L O P V K P S N
V T T V K T V L C F T F V O Y E V T
E O K Y E H A V H L E S T A K K V O
O L V U S F T T V K E H K O A V T V

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

health facility. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) needs a permit to conduct X-ray services at the Creek Nation Community Hospital (CNCH) in Okemah.

• **TR 16-084 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a subscription and license agreement for the MCNDH with NCS Pearson Inc. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The new agreement would allow MCNDH to continue using Pearson services by updating them for compatibility with the Windows 10 operating system.

• **TR 16-086 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a veterans choice program provider agreement between MCN and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The VA wishes to partner with the MCNDH Veterans Choice Program, which offers veterans more health care options in their communities through MCN and allows the health department to receive payments from the VA for providing services to veterans.

• **TR 16-087 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a comprehensive workforce management services agreement between MCN and Medassets Workforce Solutions for certain MCNDH facilities. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

According to their website, 'Medassets is an American health care performance improvement company.'

• **TR 16-088 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement on behalf of MCNDH. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

This would allow health care students to gain experience at MCNDH facilities.

• **TR 16-089 Confirming the nomination of Vernon Courtwright to serve on the MCN Election Board. Reps. Thomas Yahola, Rufus Scott and Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The principal chief nominated Courtwright to fill a vacancy on the board.

Courtwright issued the following statement June 16 to the 'Muscogee Nation News:'

'I served two different terms before on the election board and allowed my last term to expire, as I believe that as many citizens as possible, should be given the opportunity to serve on our tribal boards and that there should be term limits for these boards. In my opinion, lengthy terms lead to stagnation and resistance to change, which leads to the second reason I left the board.

'In the end, I became frustrated with the confrontational attitude that existed in our meetings because I refused to accept the status quo and asked questions and proposed changes that no one but me agreed with.

'Things like;

'I believed that it was the Election Board's duty and obligation to try and get as many people registered to vote as possible, and then encourage them to get out and vote! (this took a while, but they finally did take up the cause). Every election. Absentee voters would call in and question why they had to use no. 2 pencils to mark their ballots, while district voters used black pens. I don't doubt there are many absentee voters, to this day, that believe their votes can be erased once they reach the Election office…Which leads me to things being too expensive. The way we hold elections now with District voting and Absentee Voting is expensive! Training and paying expenses and stipends to poll workers for every election takes up the biggest part of that cost...'

'Fewer and fewer citizens are actually going to District polling sites and Absentee voters have decided virtually Every Election, in recent history. Years ago, the Election Board visited the Chickasaw Nation whose elections have been total Absentee for years and they experience voter participation regularly in the 40% range and sometimes more! In the Creek Nation, 14% is about average.

'Again,…my opinion, if the Chief and the National Council had agreed, our last election could have been total Absentee, but the Election Board Manager and the Board decided there was not enough time to implement the Laws and procedures. I disagreed, and was voted down again...'

'Dead people Voting – knowing the thoroughness with which the election Board Staff researches their available information, Sometimes I think this is a joke. But these concerns keep surfacing again and again. I do believe a better job can be done utilizing all the information databases available both, within and outside the tribe, but not all Creek Nation Departments cooperate, due to Confidentiality Laws. I understand that, …but all we ever wanted to know was whether anyone had passed away...'

To view this statement in full visit: http://tinyurl.com/zles837.

• **TR 16-090 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) plan of action with the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park for the reburial of associated and unassociated funerary objects from the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

MCN formally claimed several of these objects that came into the possession of the park through various donations and the plan of action sets for procedures for the park's dispossession of them.

• **TR 16-091 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a notice of intent for storm water discharges associated with construction activity general permit. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

MCN Tribal Construction needs to provide the notice to gain a necessary permit for a community center project in Okemah and several future projects.

• **TR 16-092 Authorizing the execution of a self-determination non-construction contract with the U.S. secretary of the interior pursuant to receive funding through the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program for a groundwater exploration study. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

MCN wishes to enter into the contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior for funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to explore the scope of water resources available to it.

• **TR 16-093 Approving beer sales at the B.A. Tobacco Outlet and Mingo Tobacco Outlet Smoke Shops. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Barnett voting against it.**

These MCN facilities need approval to sell alcoholic beverages pursuant to the MCN Liquor and Beverage Code.

• **TR 16-094 Authorizing the Trail of Tears Memorial Association Inc. the use of the Great Seal of MCN. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The association wants to use the seal for a T-shirt design and needs legislative approval to do so.

• **TR 16-095 Confirming the nomination of Lu Ann Hudson to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF) Board. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

An oversight board for MLF was created through NCA 16-080, which was approved during the May 21 regular session.

According to this bill, an oversight board is required in order to receive funds from different sources. The board will be made up of five members, two chosen by the principal chief and three by the Council. All members must receive Council confirmation.

The amendment also establishes requirements to hold a board position.

MLF was established by MCN as a Community Development and Financial Institution in order to promote economic development.

The principal chief nominated Hudson for confirmation.

• **TR 16-096 Confirming the nomination of Brad Kent to serve on the MLF Board. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The principal chief nominated Kent for confirmation.

• **TR 16-097 Confirming the nomination of Earl King to serve on the MLF Board. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The Council nominated King, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen for confirmation.

• **TR 16-098 Confirming the nomination of Lawrence Wilson to serve on the MLF Board. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.**

The Council nominated Wilson, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen for confirmation.

• **TR 16-099 Authorizing the River Spirit Casino (RSC) Phase II expansion oversight committee to increase the project budget for the RSC expansion project in an amount of $5 million. Reps. Robert Hufft, Lucian Tiger and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Deere voting against it.**

The increase is to fund a spa costing $2.8 million and $2.2 million in mitigation work needed for project completion.

• **NCA 16-073 Approving the 2017 Indian Housing Plan. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act requires that a tribally approved housing plan be submitted at least 75 days prior to the end of a tribe's fiscal year to receive Indian Housing Block Grant funds.

• **NCA 16-082 Authorizing a $117,446 appropriation to the MCN Head Start Program for the purchase of two new 29-passenger buses. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The current buses are too old and Head Start needs new ones to continue offering transportation services.

• **NCA 16-083 Authorizing the expenditure of $1,259,384 in grants funds awarded by the Indian Health Service (IHS) tribal equipment funds to MCNDH for the Creek Nation Community Hospital and the Okemah Indian Clinic. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

MCNDH seeks to use the funds towards new medical equipment for the CNCH 18-bed critical access hospital that is to include an emergency room, along with the Okemah Indian Clinic ambulatory care center.

• **NCA 16-084 Authorizing a $4,000 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which failed 6-8 with Reps. Darrell Proctor, Adam Jones, Hill, Hicks, Hufft, Randolph, Barnett and Yahola voting against it.**

Muscogee (Creek) law student Chandler Torbett is seeking assistance to cover expenses involved in an unpaid internship with U.S. Rep. Tom Cole in Washington, D.C.

Randolph voiced concerns that funding had already been approved for Mvskoke Nation Youth Services (MNYS) to administer and provide such assistance.

• **NCA 16-085 Authorizing a $731.61 special appropriation to financially assist a Muscogee (Creek) citizen with medical expenses. Scott sponsored the amendment, which failed 7-8 with Barnett, Hicks, Hill, Hufft, Proctor, Randolph, Tiger and Jones voting against it.**

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gerald Harjo had a cancerous tumor removed and is seeking assistance to cover remaining medical expenses associated with this condition.

Barnett voiced concerns that a letter of denial from MCN Social Services was not included with the legislation to show that this avenue had been exhausted.

She recommended seeking assistance through the program to cover other budgetary concerns in order to reroute personal funds dedicated to these needs towards health care costs or possibly holding fundraisers.

• **NCA 16-086 Amending NCA 12-246 (Authorizing a donation to the national Johnson O'Malley Association (JOM)). Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

NCA 12-246 authorized the inclusion of a yearly donation to JOM in the comprehensive annual budget and this amendment would change the accountability section to require the provision of receipts at the end of the fiscal year rather than the end of the conference.

• **NCA 16-087 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the Oklahoma Wild Bunch Youth Rodeo Association. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The association is non-profit and aims at promoting sportsmanship and lifelong friendships in youth.

They had 84 participants who qualified to compete in their finals and 25 percent of them are Muscogee (Creek). The association is seeking assistance with purchasing year-end jackets.

• **NCA 16-088 Authorizing a $10,116 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Head Start Program and expend any additional funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) Administration for children and families. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act offers MCN Head Start Programs an additional funding opportunity on top of their annual grant to cover 1.8 percent cost of living raises for program staff. These funds require a 20 percent match just like the original grant.

• **NCA 16-089 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to Baptist Village. Scott sponsored the amendment, which failed 7-8 with Reps. Del Beaver, Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, Hill, Hufft, Jennings, Proctor and Tiger voting against it.**

The non-profit, retirement community houses some Muscogee (Creek) citizens and asked for assistance to make required improvements to their facility.

• **NCA 16-090 Authorizing a $2,500 special appropriation to Eufaula Indian Community. Randolph and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The community is seeking assistance to hold their inaugural Summer Youth Lead-

Council - 6

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ership Camp that is aimed at motivating and developing leadership skills in 40 Oklahoma-based Native American students ages 15-17.

• **NCA 16-091 Authorizing a $160,000 appropriation to the MCN Department of Interior Affairs (MCN DOI) for the development and maintenance of the Okmulgee Country Club and Golf Course. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely with Rep. Del Beaver voting against the motion.**

Objectives for the course are to place it on the National Register of Historic Places (NHP) and use this status to seek funding strategies for offsetting the investment by MCN, consult with an experienced golf course design professional for best use of the property and uphold the appearance of it through proper maintenance and repair.

'MNN' staff was present at the meeting and unable to hear discussion on the bill by National Council representatives. The 'MNN' requested the Council's recording from the meeting the morning of June 20 and did not receive it as of press time.

During the June 6 Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee meeting, Jennings, who is not on the committee, said he was open to reopening the property as a golf course but not pursuing NHP status.

"That's your job. I mean you're a Okmulgee City Council member. I lived here all my life and that doesn't mean anything to me such as the Council House does. I don't see us spending any money other than on the roof," he said to MCN Secretary of the Interior Chris Azbell.

Yahola, who is on the committee, asked Azbell if there were any master plans for the property.

Azbell said the requested appropriation was to help explore options while maintaining it and shared some potential cost saving measures and business strategies.

He said that they are reaching the point of either being enabled to pursue development options or considering selling the property.

• **NCA 16-092 Authorizing a $120,000 appropriation to fund the costs associated with the demolition of MCN property and buildings. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

MCN DOI has received requests for the MCN Construction Department to demolish MCN properties and buildings that are a nuisance and/or dilapidated and needs funds to cover the costs associated with this.

• **NCA 16-093 Authorizing a $2,500 special appropriation to Tookparfka Indian Baptist Church. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The church has nine Muscogee (Creek) members who are seeking financial assistance to attend Indian Falls Creek (IFC) and the facility is not eligible for the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program for Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches.

According to the website, IFC is the largest gathering of Native American Christians in the world.

• **NCA 16-094 Amending MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 5, Subsection 2-104, titled, 'Church Camp House/Ceremonial Ground Camp/Fellowship Hall Grant Award Requirements and Restrictions.' Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

This amendment changes the penalty for not following the required financial reporting guidelines after receiving the grant. Originally recipients would did not follow guidelines would not be eligible to receive it again for five years and not be eligible for any assistance from the Council, along with the Nation being able to seek full restitution for the funds.

With the amendment, the recipient would be defined as the person who signed as the authorized representative and they would be required to turn in receipts no later than 30 days after the funds are issued, or this individual and related documentation would be submitted to the MCN Office of the Attorney General (AG) for enforcement of full restitution and legal action.

It would also add that citizens who are members of more than one ceremonial ground or church are only allowed to use the program once at the ground or church of their choice and if they attempt to defraud the program by going against this, the MCN AG would be notified leading to legal action.

• **NCA 16-095 Authorizing a $3,000 donation to the Hanna Rural Fire Association (HRFA). Jack and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

HRFA is a non-profit, volunteer organization that serves an area primarily populated by citizens and is seeking assistance to hold their annual Fourth of July celebration.

• **NCA 16-096 Authorizing a $1,874.14 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

Muscogee (Creek) anthropology/archeology student Turner Hunt is seeking assistance to attend the University of Georgia Singer-Moye archaeological field school to fulfill a prerequisite for graduate school.

• **NCA 16-097 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Subsection 9-103, titled, 'Special Appropriation Guidelines' and Subsection 13-103, titled, 'Eligibility, Guidelines and Policy.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

This amendment would disallow citizens under 24-years-old to be eligible for special appropriations without a two-thirds waiver vote of the Council, requiring instead that they seek assistance through the recently formed MNYS grant opportunity.

• **NCA 16-098 Appropriating $375,000 for the Tulsa's Future III Economic Development Plan. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. Del Beaver, Jennings and Deere voting against it.**

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd explained that this would renew an agreement for five years with the Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce that previously existed for at least five years.

He said the Nation will pay $75,000 annually, up from $65,000 with the previous agreement, so MCN will have promotional and marketing advocacy through the chamber, including when no one from the tribe is able to attend meetings they hold that may affect the Nation.

'MNN' staff was present at the meeting and unable to hear discussion on the bill by National Council representatives. The 'MNN' requested the Council's recording from the meeting the morning of June 20 and did not receive it as of press time.

• **NCA 16-099 Authorizing a $26,500 special appropriation for the purchase of a 15-passenger van to Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.**

The church would like to purchase the van for transportation of its members to and from various activities. They are not eligible for the MCN grant program available for this type of assistance.

• **NCA 16-100 Appropriating $175,938 to continue the Junior Botball Challenge Program to be administered by the MCN Department of Education and Training (E&T). Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-7 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Deere, Greene, Hicks, Hill, Hufft and Jennings voting against it.**

According to their website, the Junior Botball Challenge is a sustainable program that provides reusable equipment, software, standards-aligned curriculum and professional development opportunities to teach elementary students code writing and cover engineering design standards.

According to previous 'MNN' coverage, the program is aimed at promoting student development in the science, technology, engineering and mathematical fields and involves participants using computer code to pre-programed tasks for robots to complete. The program was brought to MCN through NCA 14-203 and pursuant to NCA 14-183, it must have funding approved by the Council for three years before being included in the comprehensive annual budget.

During the meeting, Greene said she found a school located in Tulsa, which is outside the tribal jurisdiction that received assistance from the program.

Green said she believes the educational aspect is important but there is little to spare financially due to the budgetary status of the Nation.

Barnett said that the legislation is to approve funding for the program and that if there are any issues with the contract for it such as the inclusion of outside schools, E&T can alter it under their new leadership.

Barnett said she was unaware of the Tulsa school's status and that eligibility approval was done by E&T.

Jack was excused from the meeting.

The upcoming quarterly session is scheduled July 30.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved. Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session. For questions contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



IRENE AGUILAR



SANTA FE, N.M. — Irene Naomi Taylor Aguilar of Santa Fe went home May 9 to be in the presence of the Lord. She was born Oct. 10, 1945 to parents Hully and Alice Burgess Taylor. She worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs until her retirement and loved to cook bake and sew. She leaves behind: children Jose Jr., Terry, Scotty and Alicia Aguilar all of Santa Fe and Cammile Aguilar of Albuquerque, N.M., six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Bertha Taylor; brothers, Ken and Marvin Taylor.

She was survived by: Nelson Taylor of Los Angeles, Buna Taylor of Lawrence, Kan., Quannah Suwanvittaya of Santa Ana, Calif., and many nieces and nephews.

She will be missed by her family and friends.

ROBERT BERRYHILL



CAMERON, Mo. — Robert L. 'Bob' Berryhill, 77, Cameron, passed away on June 13, 2016.

Bob was born Sept. 18, 1938 in Cameron to Melvin Allen 'Chief' and Frances (Tindall) Berryhill.

Bob was a 1956 graduate of Cameron High School and attended William Jewell College on a football scholarship.

Bob was a member of the First Christian Church in Cameron. He was a sheet metal worker and mechanic for TWA for 34 years, retiring in 2000.

He was preceded in death by his: parents and brother, Richard Berryhill.

On Sept. 5, 1959, Bob married Nancy Nelson in Cameron. She survives of the home.

Additional survivors include: daughter, Lisa (David) BeVelle, Chillicothe; son, Robert 'Bob' (Susan) Berryhill, Jr., Fort Worth, Texas; brother, Paul (Cindy) Richardson, Lawson; four grandchildren, Seth, Grayson, Megan and Alexys; six great-grandchildren, Bryton, Mya, Maddox, Carson, Hunter and Brooks; several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Services were held June 17, 2016 at First Christian Church in Cameron. Burial was at Graceland Cemetery in Cameron. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the First Christian Church, Children's Mercy Hospital and/or Boy Scouts of America Pony Express Council. Online condolences: www.polandthompson.com.

JOSEPHINE BIGLER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Josephine Wildcat Bigler was born May 24, 1921 on a Euchee allotment near Kellyville. She is the eldest of five siblings including brothers Jimmie, Nathanial and Andrew as well as sister Maxine.

Her cousin Martha Wildcat Squire also grew up with them as a sister.

Her primary language growing up was Euchee. Her parents, Maxey Wildcat and Lizzie Bighead Wildcat, were full-blood Euchee (Yuchi) and they worked hard for their children to attend school. Josephine was the first in her family and may be the first Euchee woman, to graduate from a four-year college at Southeastern in 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

She would have graduated in 1944 however; she joined the war effort spending a year at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Tulsa as a Rosie the Riveter. Her life, before and after WWII, has been a life of service.

She worked for several years as a second grade teacher at Washington and Jefferson Elementary schools in Sapulpa. Her family was founding members of Pickett

Chapel Indian United Methodist Church and it was through her church work that she met her husband, Rev. Clarence Bigler.

They were married for 48 years and raised sons: Seaver, Micheal and Gregory. After originally living in Indiana and Illinois, the Biglers moved to Milwaukee in the early 1960s, and then to Marion, Wis., in 1964, a small town in the central region. During the 1960s, Josephine attended the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh for special education training.

In addition to being the wife of a minister and raising her family, she became a special education teacher in the towns of Marion and West Allis, Wis. This was a new field at the time, responding to the needs of children who otherwise could not get adequate education.

When the family moved back to Milwaukee in 1967 from the central Wisconsin area, she began participating in Native American activities and was elected chairwoman of the Milwaukee Indian Health Board and served as a representative to Milwaukee Southeastern Malpractice Compensation Committee.

Josephine was always active in the United Methodist Church, especially as it serves the needs of and ministered to Native people.

She served as the Milwaukee Indian Community representative to Wisconsin Council of Indian Reservations.

After their youngest son graduated from college in 1982, Josephine and Clarence moved to New York City where from 1982-1988 she worked for the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In this role, she travelled widely throughout all of North American Indian Country coordinating Native American ministries. She met many people from different Indian nations.

She enjoyed learning about their cultures and proudly represented Euchee ways and Oklahoma life. When she and her husband retired in 1988, they moved back to Sapulpa. Josephine became active once again at Pickett

Chapel, leading the United Methodist Women unit at Pickett. In 2000, she was on the steering committee for the UMW National Conference in Tulsa.

Josephine was one of four remaining elders that were native-born fluent speakers. She helped create some of the best, extensive documentation of the language in existence through: stories, historical narratives, folk tales, recipes, and 'how tos' for many traditional activities. This class was also the impetus for a children's classes to get started, which in turn created the first new speakers and teachers of Euchee in decades.

Through changes in various programs working on the language, Josephine continued teaching young Euchees their tongue on up to teachers now working with the Euchee Language Department now within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Due to her numerous works, in the fall of 2014 Southeastern Oklahoma State University recognized Josephine with a Distinguished Alumni Award, of which she was very honored.

She is survived by her: sisters Maxine Wildcat Barnett and Martha Wildcat Squire; sons Seaver and wife Debbie, Micheal and wife GuiZhen, Gregory and wife Dawn, numerous grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Pickett Chapel with Rev. Bill Foot officiating.

She was brought there the previous day by Smith Funeral Home with a brief prayer service upon her arrival. Some family and friends stayed with her through that night.

Internment was held at Cumseh cemetery. Traditional medicine and meal were given back at Pickett Chapel afterwards. We appreciate all the thoughts and prayers from family and friends, thank you.

SOLOMON JOHNSON

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Solomon Lee 'Sonny' Johnson, Sr. was born March 10, 1955 in Morris to the late Cy and Rose Marie (Fields) Johnson. He passed away June 7 in Muskogee.

Sonny worked as a mechanic and a salesman. He loved people, especially his friends and family. He enjoyed playing pool. He also loved God and the Bible.

Sonny was preceded in death by his: parents; wife, Cheryl Johnson; brothers, Daniel Brown, Paul Johnson, and Yommie Monahwee and sisters Wanda Berryhill, Phyliss Brown, Beverly Grummitt and Geraldine Berryhill.

Left to cherish his memory are his: children, Rachel Langley and son Tyler, Solomon Johnson, Jr., Burt Hopkins, Scott Bevenue and Tamma Makinson; sisters, Cheryl Monahwee Marello and Jessina Brown; brothers, Joseph Johnson, Cy Johnson, Jr., George Johnson, Steve Monahwee, Mike Monahwee, Daren Monahwee and Anthony Monahwee, along with his aunt, Alice Burnside and uncle, Solomon Monahwee, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A funeral service for Sonny was held June 10 at Apostolic Life Church with Rev. Josh Bower officiating. Serving as casketbearers were: Charlie LaSarge, Bill Edwards, Paul Hudson, Steve Powell, Ralph Brown and Bourbon LaSarge. Arrangements have been entrusted to McClendon-Winters Funeral Home. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Sonny's Tribute Page of our website at www.mcclendonwinters.com.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.
CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
• ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
• CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
• ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
• VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
• ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
• SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)
Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...
AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.
If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

Arbor Care seeking citizens to take wood chips

MCN Arbor Care/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Arbor Care Department is looking for citizens in need of woodchips at their homes for flowerbeds, gardens, etc.

These chips are from a variety of different trees that have been cut down and ran through a commercial chipper.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact one of the numbers below.

Please note that we must have a good access point to deliver and dump the chips.

Roads, driveways, etc. must be accessible for our trucks to get in and out of safely and without getting stuck.

For more information, one of the following can assist you: Oscar Hicks at: 918-752-8577, James Hicks at: 918-752-8014 or Phil Booker at: 918-732-7794.

Graduate email issue

The graduate profile for Mackenzie Roberts did not come through properly to appear in the June 1 graduate profile edition due to an undetermined email issue.

Mackenzie Morgan Roberts



Family: Brent and Rhonda Roberts, parents; George Ann McGirt and the late Bobby Williams, maternal grandparents; James C. Roberts and the late Margaret Roberts, paternal grandparents

School: Henryetta High School

Clan: Wotko

Church: Crosstown Pentecostal

Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

She was in National Honor Society for two years and was NHS vice president one year; class vice president two years; FCCLA two years; Oklahoma Honor Society one year; fast and slow-pitch softball four years, which her teams received state runner up in both fast and slow-pitch and Upward Bound four years. She has been accepted to The University of Oklahoma and will major in business/English education She has received the University of Oklahoma Academic Award.

Graduate correction

In the June 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' the graduate profile listed as Swift Lightning Roberts was printed incorrectly. The graduate's name is Swift Lightning Myers. I regret this error.

- Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

Swift Lightening Myers



Parents: Swift Wakeman, Cherrie Myers

School: Charles Page High School

Church: Life Church, Tulsa

From swift's teacher, Kendra Roulette, CPHS. If had to describe swift in one word it would be courageous! His courage in fighting cancer, the courage in finishing school and his courage in planning for an unknown future! His heart is bigger than anyone's I know and will push him to accomplish anything that is in his power to achieve. He was involved in student council and that with his friends Kylie and Madison, they have brought attention to the battle that pediatric cancer patients fight everyday...We are so proud of you swift! #SWIFTSTRONGTRUST GOD

Reporter job open at Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Includes the following and other duties as assigned.

Receives assignment or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story ideas. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story lead through interview, observation and research.

Organizes material, determines slant or emphasis and writes story according to prescribed editorial style and format standards.

Edits or assists in editing for publications of the Muscogee Nation News (MNN).

Assists editor with news stories and updates for the newspaper by establishing Mvskoke Media within all tribal departments of Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) as well as communication with community centers, tribal towns and tribal churches within the MCN jurisdiction regarding content retrieval.

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or five years of experience in newspaper production.

Writes clearly, concisely and informatively. Edits work for spelling, grammar and Associated Press (AP) style. Presents numerical data clearly and accurately. Is able to read and interpret written information.

To perform this job successfully, an individual should have a basic knowledge of or a base knowledge to learn Macintosh computers and the Mac operating system (OS), Google platforms, mobile OSs, Acrobat, WordPress, InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Preference for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and then citizens of federally recognized tribes.

Contact

'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com or 918-732-7697.

Benefit Powwow set for Oct. 1

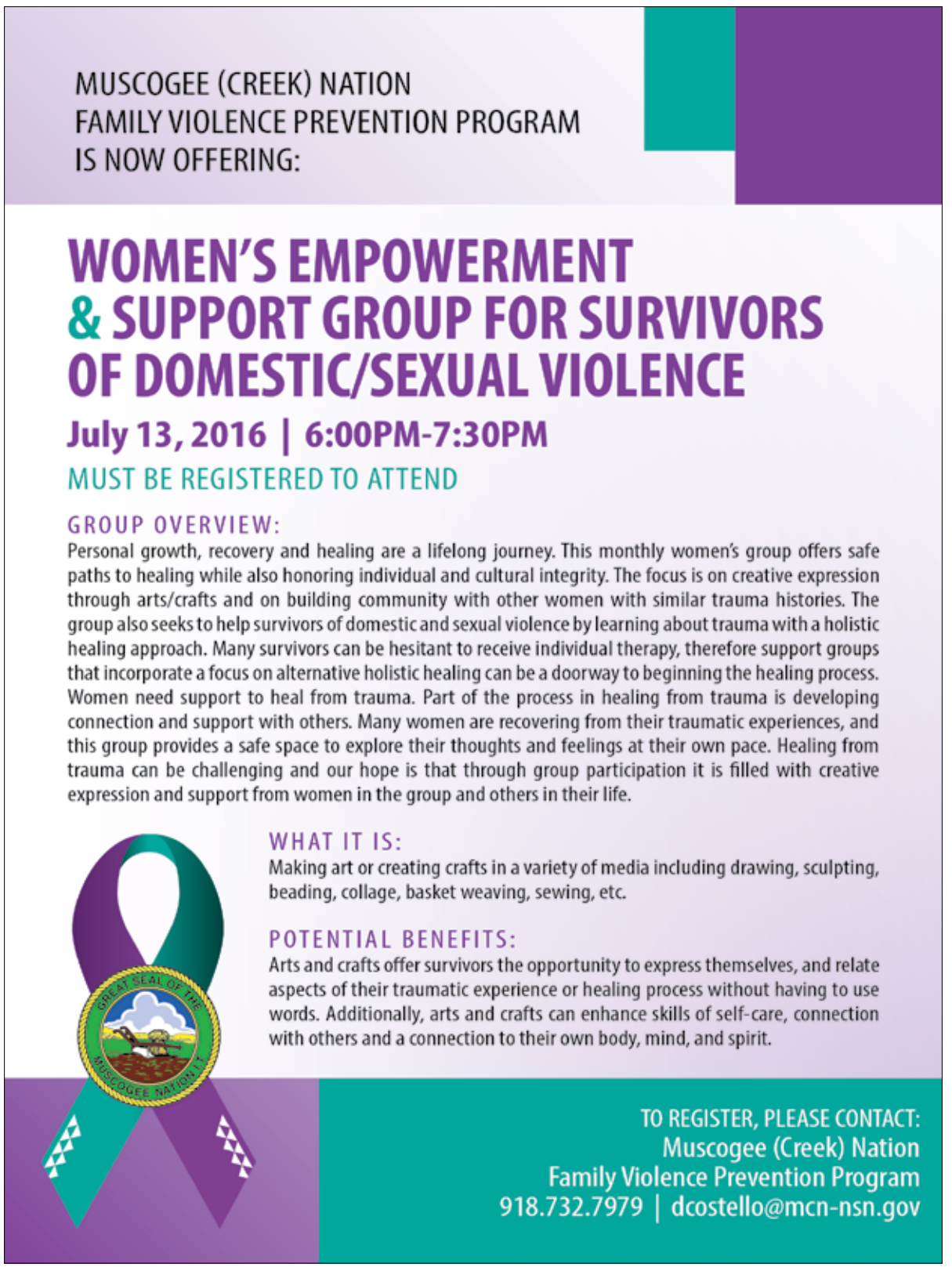
MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow is set for Oct. 1 at the Student Life Center, 2412 E. Shawnee Bypass, Muskogee OK. Admission is free and attendees are encouraged to bring seating.

For event information call: 918-682-2586.

Bristow community election set Aug. 6

BRISTOW, Okla. — The Bristow Indian Community has set an officer election for Aug. 6 at the community center, 710 S. Main, Bristow, OK 74010.

For more information call BIC election committee secretary Anita White: 918-231-6890.



Citizen seeking participants for ham radio group

William Breckinridge
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

LEONARD, Okla. — Dear Editor- I am a citizen living in the Leonard area and have a FCC ham radio license, call sign KG5ILP. I would like to meet other Muscogee Nation radio operators and non-licensed citizens interested in amateur radio and emergency communications networks.

In these days of internet and cell phone communication it is easy to forget the importance of radio communications, at least until the next ice storm! Having a "plan B" is a good idea, and ham radio is perfect for the job.

—Mvto,

918-366-3567; PO Box 10, Leonard, OK 74043; bill@wbreckinridge.com.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: A. T., N. T., A. T., and L. T.
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2016- GD-2016-28-JB

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: unknown father of L. T.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-28, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: A.T., N.T., A.T. and L.T. the minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

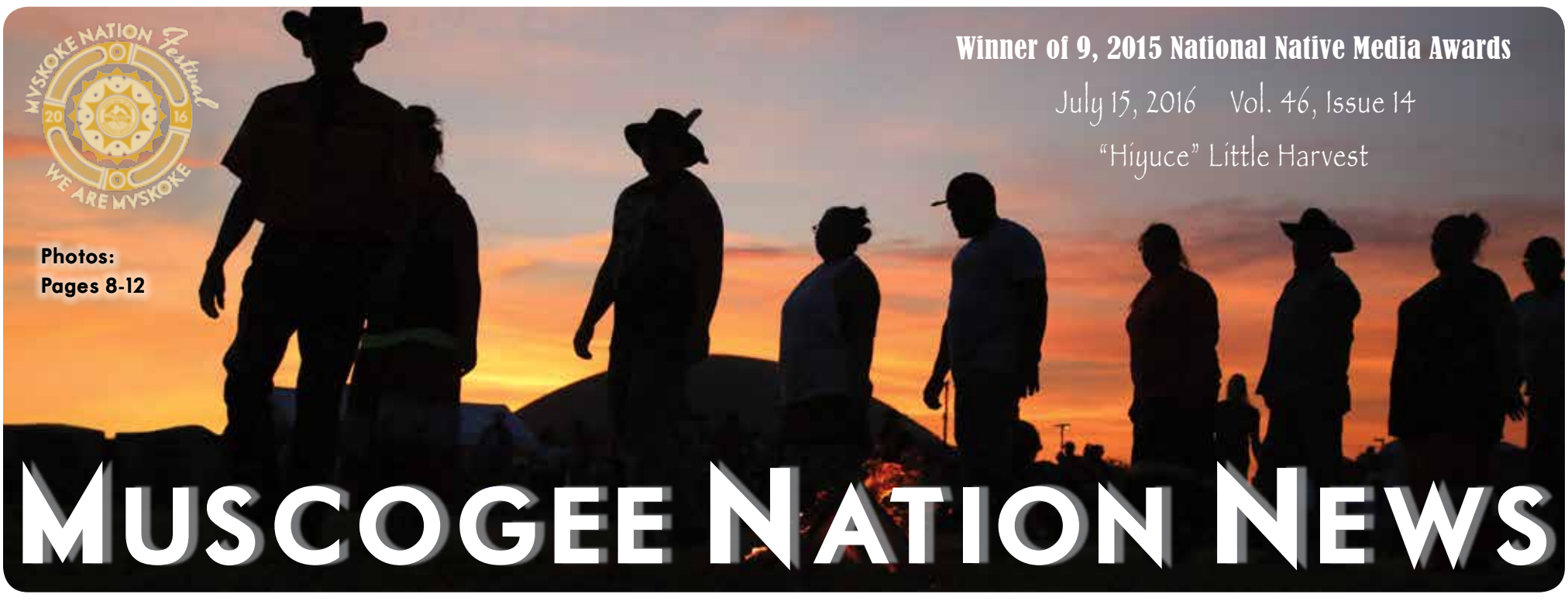
You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 5th day of August, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 10 day of June, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District
By: Jessie Morton (Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

July 15, 2016 Vol. 46, Issue 14

"Hiyuce" Little Harvest

Photos:
Pages 8-12

Muscogee Nation News

Indian children's home benefit set for new month



Courtesy Murrow Home

From a previous Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow held in Muskogee, Okla.

Murrow powwow to be held in October instead of June

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The fifth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow, typically held in June, has been set for Oct. 1 this year at the Bacone College Student Life Center in Muskogee.

"It's actually our primary fundraiser, about the only one that we have," Murrow Social Services Case Worker Shari Kamp said. "We

Benefit - 2

OK Freewheel makes stop at MCN

Event takes participants through the Five Tribes' jurisdiction

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 38th edition of the Oklahoma Freewheel Bike Tour took place took place June 19-25 throughout the Sooner state.

OFBT Executive Director Trevor Steward said this is the only cross-state bicycle tour in Oklahoma. He said the event began with a few hundred riders in 1979 and that it has grown to over 1,000 each year.

"We are the second oldest tour in the Nation," Steward said. "People don't realize Oklahoma is so beautiful and so diverse."

This year's theme was a tribute to the 'Five Tribes of Oklahoma.'

Freewheel - 2



Native News Today

Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson addresses U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 5486 titled, 'Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act,' which aims to reaffirm the trust status of PBCI land and could potentially damage a current Muscogee (Creek) Nation lawsuit against the tribe.

Proposed legislation could damage MCN lawsuit concerning Hickory Ground

Bill confirms trust status of PBCI lands

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A U.S. House of Representatives resolution proposed June 15 aims to reaffirm the trust status of land owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, potentially damaging a current Muscogee (Creek) Nation lawsuit against the tribe.

H.R. 5486 titled, 'Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act,' outlines approximately 229 acres of land owned in Alabama and Florida by PBCI and confirms its trust status.

MCN currently has an ongoing lawsuit against PBCI concerning the alleged removal of ancestral remains and funerary objects from the site in order to accommodate the construction of a PBCI casino.

Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson said he is concerned because the remains could be those of his ancestors.

"Since the desecration took place, all the remains were taken out and as of today, we don't know where they're located or how the repatriation took place," he said. "Usually in the regulations, the remains and the artifacts are supposed to be put back in the same as where they were excavated from."

Floyd said the bill was introduced by a representative from the district that encompasses the PBCI land.

According to www.congress.gov, the H.R. 5486 is sponsored by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R- AL), and co-sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL), Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL), Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI).

"In relationship to the bill… it's a one tribe, one fix solution disregarding the in-

Legislation - 6

Tips to stay cool, hvse en meske ofv (in the summer months)

Emergency Management offers suggestions to avoid heat related issues

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The summer season officially began June 20 but the high temperatures in most of Oklahoma had been over 90 degrees for a couple of weeks prior.

With the heat and the heat index rising or staying fairly consistent each day, those who are not prepared for the weather can experience mental or physical issues.

"The way our weather pattern is going, there is high heat and high humidity. We have to got to be prepared and being cautious about working outside," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said.

Nichols said that beyond heat exhaustion, heat strokes are also possible.

"Heat exhaustion does come first," Nichols said.

The symptoms for heat exhaustion are stomach and leg cramps, nausea and vomiting. More extreme conditions can cause headaches, rapid breathing, flushed skin and ceased sweating.

"Things of that nature that would go into more of the heat stroke or heat emergencies," Nichols said.

If these symptoms are noticed, try and find a shady area that is out of direct sunlight. One of the things that can help prevent these events from happening is to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, regardless of the activity level. Do not wait until you are thirsty to drink.

Water is not the only thing you need to drink. Being out in the heat causes the loss of electrolytes through sweat. Electrolytes are used in the human body for rehydration purposes and can be replenished through sport drinks like Gatorade and other products such as Pedialyte.

"It is not staying hydrated the day of. You need to start days before," Nichols said. "If you know you are going to be out working, whatever it is,

Cool - 5

Tourism department starts pilot Mini Creek Fit program

TR promotes starting good habits early

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department has presented a new challenge for citizens but this time, it is targeted towards youth.

The new pilot program, Mini Creek Fit was launched June 2 for children ages 5-12 and was modeled after the Creek Fit routine already offered by TR.

"Kids want to be active," TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson said. "They want to play and have fun so let's incorporate fun with exercise."

Johnson said he always thought about having a Creek Fit designed for children. Johnson said that when Creek Fit and Walking Strong became more popular, he wanted to do something similar for children.

"We knew the summer season would be here soon and kids would like something to do," he said. "So why not a Creek Fit for them."

The MCN Office of Child Care brought 20 youth who participated in adult exercises that were presented as games.

Fit - 3



Darren DeLaune/MNN

L to r: Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees Larry Grounds, John Beaver and Jesse Allen took part in the 38th Edition of the Oklahoma Freewheel Bike Tour.

Freewheel

Continued from page 1

It began in Madill and concluded in Caney, Kan., passing through the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole Nations the first few days of the tour.

"We want to show people that Oklahoma is not a dust bowl. It is not flat," Steward said. "We have hills and numerous amounts of scenery that you pass and do not pay attention to while driving."

The tour stopped June 21 in Okmulgee, the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Bikers began rolling through in the morning hours.

That day consisted of a 63-mile trek from Wewoka to the Okmulgee County YMCA.

Okmulgee Main Street Director Heather Sumner said the bikers would spend the afternoon and evening in the city.

"With the theme being around the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, they reached out to us and asked if we would like to be an overnight spot to where everyone can rest from that day's tour," Sumner said.

Sumner said they were pleased that OFBT reached out for a partnership with Okmulgee. She also said Okmulgee Main Street linked up with MCN to get ready for the riders.

"We had been working with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to get everything set up for the tour, so they can see what the Nation and city have to offer," Sumner said.

Sumner said MCN provided transportation for the cyclists from the YMCA to downtown Okmulgee.

MCN also coordinated vendors on the Council House lawn and a stompdance demonstration for that evening.

Will Hill did storytelling back at the YMCA as a finale.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has done a lot for this tour stop," Sumner said. "They have been a major key player in all of this."

Sumner said in her two-and-a-half years since she has been with OMS, they have developed a good connection with MCN.

"It will only continue to get better," Sumner said.

MCN Department of Health Legislative Officer John Beaver participated in the tour.

"If you are into cycling, it is a great event," Beaver said. "It is hot but it is fun."

Keeping with Steward's opinion on the state's layout, Beaver said the hills provided a challenge of their own.

"All I said was '10 miles at a time,' " Beaver said. "Then I would take a break. I told myself to, 'ride smart and not stupid. Take advantage of all your water breaks.' "

He participated in the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Bike Tour from Macon, Ga., to Okmulgee in 2012.

"This is the first time I have participated in this event so I know I will feel equally celebratory," he said.

Sumner said she hopes that the participants will want to return to Okmulgee after their short evening in the city.

"A lot of them do use this tour as a vacation, so we are hoping during this time they would want to come back to Okmulgee for a longer stay," Sumner said. "Like everyone else, we want them to see the beauty that Okmulgee holds."

The tour concluded by showing participants various sights within MCN and Cherokee Nation.

Benefit

Continued from page 1

are thinking about doing at least one other one during the year but don't have anything planned as of yet."

According to their website, 'Murrow is the only residential facility in the State of Oklahoma that provides a home for American Indian Children only.'

"…Children who are placed in out-of-home placement as a result of abuse and neglect," Murrow Executive Director Betty Martin said. "We provide a home for them and the children go to public school. They receive therapeutic services here and counseling."

Kamp, who is also the event coordinator, said the powwow is an example of how to help foster children without being a foster parent.

"Because not everybody can open their homes to take in foster children but they want to help," she said.

According to the event flier, it starts at 2 p.m., is free and will also feature a free dinner at 5 p.m.

"Normally, we'll have what they call meat gravy," Kamp said. "We'll have potatoes, green beans but it will be kind of what people would consider powwow food or Indian food that you will find at a lot of powwows."

Kamp said dinner service will be coordinated by arena director Robbie Anquoe in the traditional manner she was taught to ensure event staff and their families are served first.

"Then we'll have youth, some of our older children here at Murrow as well as volunteers will help serve the elders," she said. "We ask that anyone who is an elder or who is disabled and has trouble in maybe getting around or carrying, like they use a walker or cane…then we announce and ask them to stay seated and then their food is brought to them."

Kamp said the staff will also feature well-known cultural expert Choogie Kingfisher as master of ceremonies and head dancer Jon Don Waters Jr., who is the grandson of Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee Dr. Pete Coser that helped start the powwow.



Courtesy Murrow Home

She said the venue is handicap accessible, indoors and stressed that seating is limited, encouraging attendees to bring their own chairs. The flier outlines that guns, drugs and alcohol are not permitted.

Kamp said beyond the existing staff and Murrow children, more volunteers are needed to help with concessions, sell tickets for raffles, manage trash and also help with elders as well as the supper line.

"There's just always things you know that we have some volunteers but it's nice sometimes if they can kind of work in shifts and give each other breaks so that we don't overwork anybody," she said.

Kamp also said all drums and tribal royalty are welcome to come and participate.

She said they are accepting donations for the raffles, silent auction and cakewalk.

"We have sponsorship opportunities," Kamp said. "We do have a program, a printed program, where people that donate monetarily, we make sure that they're recognized."

Kamp said on top of the free meal, there will be concessions along with arts and crafts vendors.

"People can come and purchase even early holiday items because October is not too far away from Christmas," she said.

For more information about the event, including donations, vendor set up and volunteering call Kamp at: 918-616-4577 or 918-682-2586.

For more information about Murrow visit them online at: www.murrowindianchildrenshome.org or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MurrowIndianChildrensHome.OfficialHomePage/.

She explained that just because the Murrow is located on the line between MCN and Cherokee territory, does not mean it only serves those children.

"With the powwow itself, we'll have, like last year I know that we had…at least 10-15 different tribes represented," Kamp said.

Martin explained that with this service range, the need for assistance is high since the facility has three homes and hosts up to 36 children.

"You always face these challenges of problems with your plumbing and your kitchen equipment breaking down and things like that," she said.

On top of basic needs, she said the staff also looks to improve the level of service through initiatives such as their program sponsored by AT&T to help children transition to adulthood.

"One of the new services that we are going to provide is we're going to be doing an onsite educational program because we have a number of children that come to us who are suffering academically," Martin said.

Martin said they are also seeking house parents to help with the children in their domestic setting.

"We're looking for a married couple to provide a Christian loving home for these children," she said.

For more information about applying call Martin at: 918-682-2586.

"Our goal is to provide them with all of the cultural experiences," she said. "That being said, I can tell you what a real challenge is and that is staff, getting staff."

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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BHS hosts showing of 'Inside Out'

Program teaches children how to handle emotions

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to www.childstats.gov, 'Good emotional and behavioral health is an integral part of healthy development and enhances a child's sense of well-being, supports rewarding social relationships with family and peers, and facilitates achievement of full academic potential.'

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 50 percent of lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. In honor of Children's Mental Health Day, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services sponsored a showing for the Movies at the Dome Event May 5 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

"Basically this year we wanted to showcase the movie 'Inside Out' that shows how the character

"We want them to understand that it is OK to feel some of these feelings."

— BHS Social Marketing Coordinator Lindsley Harry

deals with certain emotions like sad, angry, joyful and just kind of how she deals with her emotions," BHS Social Marketing Coordinator Lindsley Harry said.

The animated film follows the mind and emotions of a young girl, and the journey of understanding that feeling emotions other than happiness is normal.

"We want them to understand that it is OK to feel some of these feelings," Harry said.

She said during the event, BHS taught children techniques to deal with emotions in a positive manner.

According to www.childstats.gov, 'Children with emotional or behavioral difficulties may have problems managing their emotions, focusing on tasks, and/or controlling their behavior. These difficulties, which may persist throughout a child's development, can lead to lifelong problems.'

Harry said the event attracted 114 children and families. BHS also taught yoga techniques such as the dolphin and warrior poses, and the snake breathing method where the child inhales deeply through the nose and releases the breath through the mouth slowly, making a hissing sound.

"They really liked the yoga techniques and breathing techniques," Harry said.

For more information about children's mental health, contact the MCN Children Mental Health Initiative at: 918-224-9307.



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Ramona Roberts (center) with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Louis Hick (L) and Jenks High School Assistant Principal Eric VanZee (R) during the Oklahoma Parents Center 10th Annual Statewide Conference May 20 at the Sheraton Hotel Reed Conference Center in Midwest City, Okla.

Citizen named Educator of the Year

Roberts recognized for educational efforts

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ramona Roberts was recognized May 20 by the Oklahoma Parents Center Inc. and the Oklahoma State Department of Education as the Educator of the Year during the center's 10th Annual Statewide Conference at the Sheraton Hotel Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.

Roberts said that starting from a young age, she wanted to become a teacher and this journey began by teaching Sunday school at Newton Methodist Church in Okmulgee.

After graduating from Okmulgee High School, Roberts went on to earn an Associate of Arts at Bacone Junior College in Muskogee, then a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, followed by a master's in education from Oklahoma City University.

Roberts has been teaching for 19 years, of which eight have been at Jenks High School. She is a 10th grade English teacher who works with special education students and also serves as co-department head.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher. I also like the counseling aspect and doing special ed. kind of combines both of them," Roberts said.

Roberts shared what inspires and motivates her.

"Just everyday watching kids learn and seeing them be successful and after they graduate, going to college, having a family, living on their own, getting a job," Roberts said. "Just seeing them be successful at life and at school."

Parents of her students nominated Roberts for the award.

Jenks High School Assistant Principal Eric VanZee released a statement to announce the award.

'This group promotes advocacy for students with special needs and collaboration between parents and schools to effect change. This is a great honor for Ms. Roberts as well as great recognition of the work that our SPED Department at the Jenks High School does.'

In an interview, VanZee elaborated on why he believes she won.

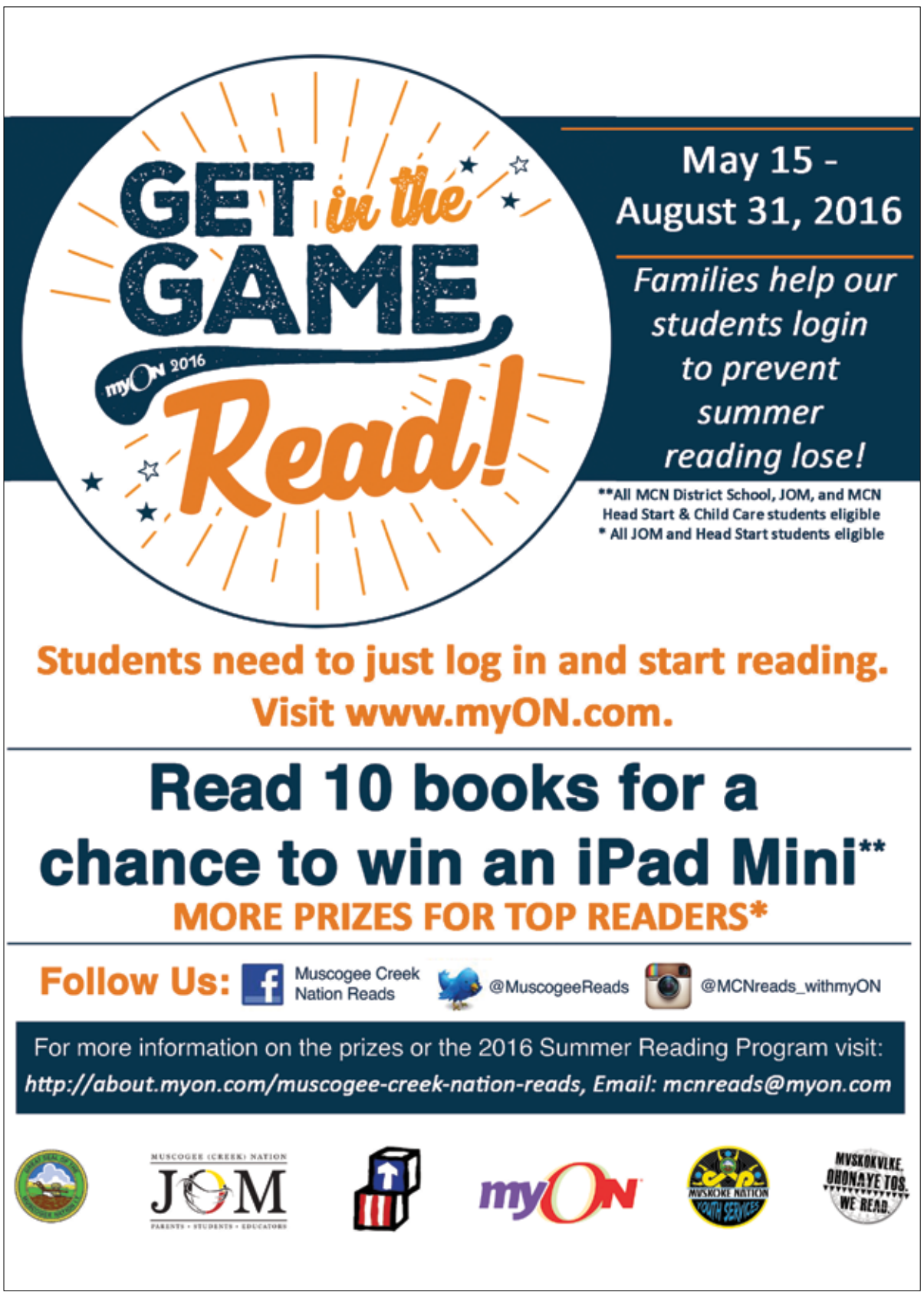
"The things that are included in Ms. Roberts nomination are her willingness to help families as a whole; navigate the education, especially secondary education services; helping students not only meet their credits but be prepared to move on after high school and be successful," VanZee said. "I feel that award really validates Ramona's approach to the classroom. She cares about the kids first and completely."

Along with her students' success, Roberts said the award is also inspiring.

"I was very excited… It lets me know that I'm doing my job and that I need to keep working hard to help the parents and the students be successful at school," she said.

Roberts lives in Glenpool with her three sons and looks to her mother for motivation.

Roberts is a member of Nokosvlke (Bear) Clan and Tvlwv Rakko Tribal Town.



Summit hosted to educate youth on STEAM careers

MCN partners for event

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Around 340 young people from around eastern Oklahoma gathered for the Eastern Work Force Board 6th annual Elevate Youth Summit June 16 at the Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee.

"We bring in young people from all of the areas and we also have young people coming from outside our county to learn about STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math)," Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Youth Programs Coordinator Danna Minnick said.

The Eastern Work Force Board is located in Muskogee and covers seven counties in eastern Oklahoma.

The event provided 36 informational booths including employers, schools and demonstrated hands-on activities for youth to learn about careers they might be interested in.

The Eastern Work Force Board partnered with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitative Services and Oklahoma State University-Institute of Technology.

"A lot of people that are interested in the future of young people and what it takes to elevate their lives to another level," Minnick said.

Fit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It is not a normal Creek Fit," Johnson said. "We had to change some things up that keep the kids' attention. We all know that a child's attention can go somewhere else any second."

He said the plan is to host it for OCC children on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer.

"The kids love it," Johnson said. "They love the games, and they want to be moving around."

He said they will experiment with new games to see what works and that he is pleased with the support staff who are all CPR and first aid certified.

"My staff, along with the workers at Child Care are certified and are able to treat any of the kids if they happen to get injured," Johnson said. "We want to make sure that everyone here is ready for anything."

Johnson said his ultimate goal is to host Creek Fit, Walking Strong and Mini Creek Fit in areas all over the MCN jurisdiction.

"Our citizens want to be active and stay active. So ultimately my goal is to have our programs throughout Creek Nation," Johnson said.

Citizen writes book on caretaking



Facebook photo
Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Gina Brandt developed a workbook to help caregivers prepare for the legal responsibilities involved with taking care of another person.

Brandt draws from personal experience

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gina Brandt developed a workbook to help caregivers prepare for the legal responsibilities involved with taking care of another person.

Brandt who is from Okemah, wrote 'How to Take Care of Me When I Don't Know Who I Am.'

Brandt said she drew from her own life experiences for the project.

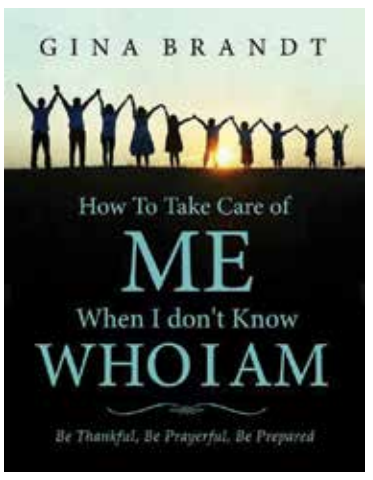
"I was a caregiver for 15 years for my dad, my grandmother and grandmother-in-law," she said. "I was the caregiver and power of attorney for all three of them."

Brandt said she was unable to take care of them at home and was obligated to place them in a nursing home.

"I had to come up with a plan because I realized you can't take care of somebody just because you love them. You have to have legal documentation to back that," she said.

At first, Brandt said she was met with obstacles such as providing documentation that justified her having power of attorney, obtaining their medical records, knowing what medicine they needed and more.

Unsure of what to do, Brandt said she started writing everything down and putting documents together for each one.



"I had to come up with a plan because I realized you can't take care of somebody just because you love them. You have to have legal documentation to back that."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gina Brandt

Brandt spoke of an occurrence where two of them passed away within the same week and one of them had a trust.

"If I did not have all of my documents in order, being the trustee of the trust, I couldn't of taken care of the final arrangements that needed to be made," Brandt said. "It's just important that when you take care of somebody, you know where all your documents are. You have everything in place, so when you need them, you're ready."

Brandt explained the book title.

"Everything I've gone through, I do not want my children to have to hunt and search, and go to court to get legal documentation, to get legal representation to take care of me," Brandt said. "So I want them to know how to take care of me when I don't know who I am."

After the passing of her loved ones, Brandt was left with the rough drafts of the workbook that she used for them.

This influenced her to develop the workbook to help others in similar situations and she also conducts workshops.

To set up a workshop call Brant at: 918-623-6542 or email: gigibrant2@gmail.com.

The workbook is available at the Hen House Café and the Statehood House Flower and Gift Shop in Okemah, Wings as Eagles Christian Bookstore and Gifts in Prague as well as Barnes and Noble bookstores, or: www.amazon.com.

Tulsa's first family descendant turns 106



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wavel Davis Ashbaugh, descendant of Tulsa's First Family, the Perryman's, turned 106 on July 8.

Ashbaugh talks about past, present and love of dancing

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

As she looks outside, then looks at her great niece, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Teresa Rodrequez, she sees something that looks very unfamiliar to her.

"What is that?" Ashbaugh says as she looks at the recorder. Rodrequez explains that it is to help the reporter to remember what she has to say. With a sigh of relief and laugh, Ashbaugh begins her interview.

Ashbaugh was born in Tulsa back in 1910.

She is a descendant of Tulsa's first family, the Perryman's. Her mother is Addie Perryman.

"Be positive, just keep moving. Keep putting one foot in front of the other and dance when you can."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wavel Davis Ashbaugh

"My mother and grandmother were born here (Tulsa)," Ashbaugh said.

Ashbaugh grew up on her mother's 160-acre allotment which was basically 11th and 15th street and Delaware and Lewis.

She did go to elementary school in Tulsa and had a brief stay at Chilocco Boarding School before returning back to Tulsa to attend a catholic school called Sacred Heart.

"After Sacred Heart I went to Monte Casino because that was the high school," Wavel Ashbaugh said. "I was in the first graduating class of Monte Casino."

"There was a grand total of two young ladies that graduated in that class," Rodrequez said. "She graduated in 1928."

She worked downtown for oil companies until she was near 30 years old and that was when she met her husband Marvin Ashbaugh. She recalls how the two met very fondly.

"I met him at church," Wavel Davis Ashbaugh said. "We met because we both would be late for church."

"They would always have to run up the stairs to go inside the church," Rodrequez said.

Wavel and Marvin ended up married and left Oklahoma because he was enlisted in the Army and stationed in Encino, California. He was a pianist who worked for Walt Disney Studios acting as the resident manager and staff pianist for the Mickey Mouse Club. He also played in numerous other bands.

"He played very well," Wavel said. "He played all over."

Wavel still gets royalties from the songs her husband played while he was working at Walt Disney Studios.

Although never having any children of her own, she was very instrumental with her nieces and nephews and a big part of their lives.

"She played a big part in raising them," Rodrequez said.

Ashbaugh said she has always been a dancer. She recalls when her father asked her mother when did she learn how to dance.

"My mom said that is not her dancing, she is walking," Ashbaugh said. "So I have danced all my life."

After her husband, Marvin Ashbaugh passed away in 1974, she picked up something that she loves dearly, but almost by accident. She started in competitive ballroom dancing.

"She started competing without knowing she was competing," Rodrequez said.

"I had a regular partner, not a professional dance partner," Ashbaugh said. "We were dancing and couples kept disappearing. It was down to two couples and I asked my partner what they were doing. He told me they only keep the winners on the floor and I won it."

She said that the waltz is the prettiest while the quickstep is the most fun of the dances.

"I do like to cha-cha," Ashbaugh said.

Ashbaugh will do what she can to dance although not a lot in her family do dance, but she loves to watch it.

"When she takes off in her walker she will do a little cha-cha step," Rodrequez said.

Besides dancing, Ashbaugh loves to read, go shopping and spend as much time as she can with family.

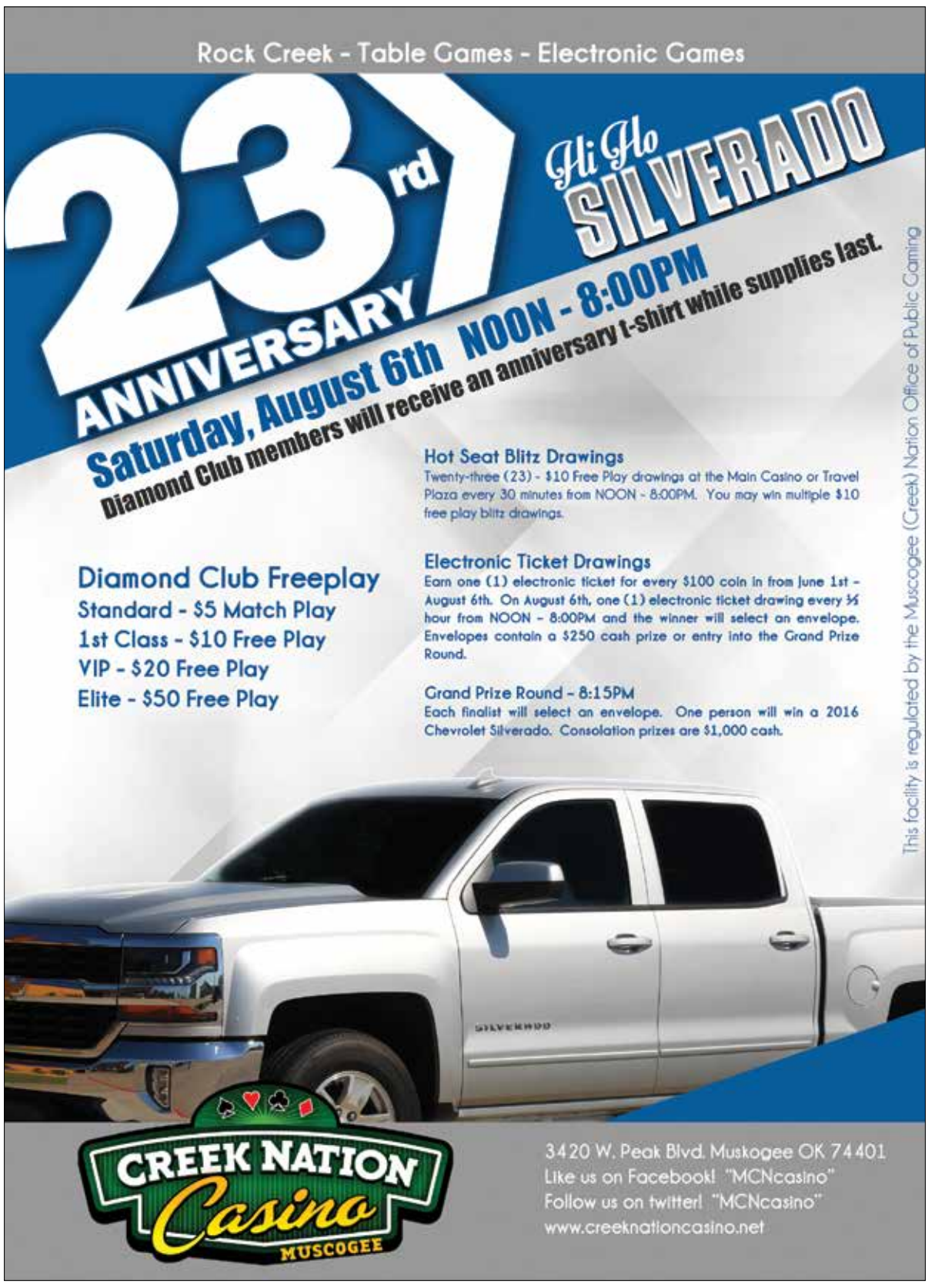
"She likes humorous short stories," Rodrequez said.

Wavel moved back to Oklahoma last October to be closer to her family. She loves being back in Oklahoma, especially in Tulsa.

Ashbaugh set another milestone July 8 as she celebrated her 106th birthday with family and friends. When asked what she contributes to her long life, she said she really does not have an answer, or a secret but there are a few things that everyone can do.

"Be positive, just keep moving," Wavel said. "Keep putting one foot in front of the other and dance when you can."

After saying that, Wavel stood up and did a quick cha-cha dance step to end the interview.





Native News Today

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team Supervisor James Nichols gives tips to stay cool during summer heat.

COOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

start drinking lots of fluids."

Nichols said to be careful when drinking only Gatorade. While it does have the electrolytes your body needs, it also has a lot of sugar.

"Mix those. Mix it half with water and with Powerade or Gatorade," Nichols said.

Nichols said that cool rags, which can be purchased at Wal-Mart, are a big help during the heat and offered an alternative.

"Find you a washrag," Nichols said. "Just keep it cool with water."

He said hand-held mist fans and squirt bottles are also helpful.

Nichols said the biggest thing you can do to prevent heat related illness is take breaks by getting in the shade and staying out of direct sunlight for a little while. He said if you have to be out in the sun, wear a hat along with light-colored, thin clothing.

"Be aware of what's going on with your body and when you should stop," Nichols said.

Reporter job open at Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Includes the following and other duties as assigned.

Receives assignment or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story ideas. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story lead through interview, observation and research.

Organizes material, determines slant or emphasis and writes story according to prescribed editorial style and format standards.

Edits or assists in editing for publications of the Muscogee Nation News (MNN).

Assists editor with news stories and updates for the newspaper by establishing Mvskoke Media within all tribal departments of Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) as well as communication with community centers, tribal towns and tribal churches within the MCN jurisdiction regarding content retrieval.

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or five years of experience in newspaper production.

Writes clearly, concisely and informatively. Edits work for spelling, grammar and Associated Press (AP) style. Presents numerical data clearly and accurately. Is able to read and interpret written information.

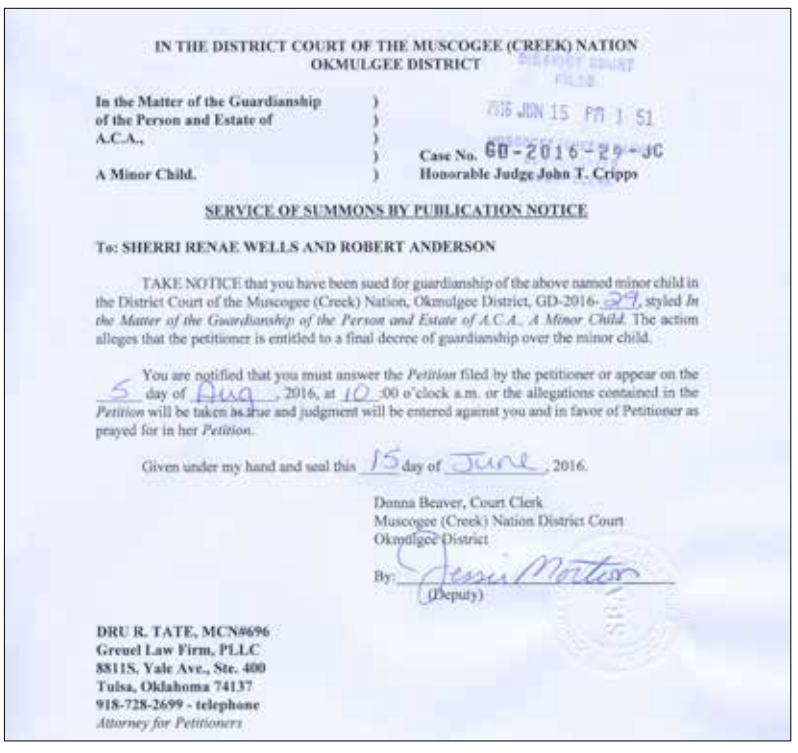
To perform this job successfully, an individual should have a basic knowledge of or a base knowledge to learn Macintosh computers and the Mac operating system (OS), Google platforms, mobile OSs, Acrobat, WordPress, InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Preference for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and then citizens of federally recognized tribes.

Contact

For initial information: 'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com or 918-732-7697.

Formal applications will still need to go through MCN Human Resources.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of A.C.A., A Minor Child.

2016 JUN 15 PM 1 51

Case No. GD-2016-29-JC
Honorable Judge John T. Cripps

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: SHERRI RENAE WELLS AND ROBERT ANDERSON

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the above named minor child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-29, styled *In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of A.C.A., A Minor Child*. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a final decree of guardianship over the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 5 day of Aug, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15 day of June, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court
Okmulgee District

By: Jessi Morton (Deputy)

DRU R. TATE, MCN#696
Greuel Law Firm, PLLC
8811S. Yale Ave., Ste. 400
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137
918-728-2699 - telephone
Attorney for Petitioners

Citizen signs to play lacrosse at Hendrix College



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brendan Rolland signs a letter of intent May 17 at Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, Okla., to play lacrosse at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark.

Late start turns into collegiate offer

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — There is a saying, better late than never. That is the concept for Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brendan Rolland who started playing lacrosse at a late age.

"He started playing at Bishop Kelley as a sophomore," Bishop Kelley head lacrosse coach Steve Hendricks said. "He did not play until he got to high school."

His perseverance after this late start has helped Rolland be the first player from Kelley to earn a scholarship and compete at the collegiate level.

Rolland signed a letter of intent May 17 at the school, located in Tulsa, to play for Hendrix College in Conway, Ark.

Rolland said he was inspired to play after seeing the sport on TV.

"My mom bought me a lacrosse stick to try out," he said.

Rolland said he did not use it very much initially.

"When we got the team is when I got serious about the sport," he said.

Rolland said he loves lacrosse because it is fast-paced and players are expected to be in good shape, much like another sport he enjoys.

"In a way, it is similar to hockey," he said. "There is no downtime and you have to keep moving."

Rolland played the position of 'attack' in high school

Hendricks explained how that is perfect for Rolland because of a special advantage he has.

"He's a left-handed player and generally left-handed players are naturals at lacrosse," Hendricks said. "He always put in the time and always stayed after practice to improve."

Rolland had other colleges from Missouri and Kansas looking at him and shared why he chose Hendrix.

"It is a very nice school with a tight knit community," Rolland said. "Of course they love their lacrosse so that helped with my decision."

Rolland acknowledged the extra effort that will be needed moving forward.

"The next level is going to be tough, more fast-paced than what I saw this year. But I am ready to work hard and be on the field," he said.

Hendricks said a void will be left in his absence.

"I lose my leadership out of my attack on this team," Hendricks said. "I am losing a kid who has that extra spark that makes the offense run effectively."

He also acknowledged the talent Rolland will lend to Hendrix College.

"They are going to be getting an excellent academic athlete," Hendricks said. "He is not only a lacrosse player, he excels in his academics. He is bringing the work ethic, self-motivation to his school for next year."

This statement rings true as Rolland received both a leadership and academic scholarship.

Rolland plans to head to Hendrix in August and said he wants to pursue a science-based major.

"I love science," Rolland said. "That is what I want my career to be in."

Brendan Rolland is of the Polecat Tribal Town and the Deer Clan. His parents are Geoff Rolland and Tammie Goddell-Rolland.

Citizen signs to play college baseball in Kansas



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Morris High School senior Dakota Washington was surrounded by his family and coaches while he signed a letter of intent April 25 to play baseball at Independence Community College in Independence, Kan.

Washington to be a pirate

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

MORRIS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dakota Washington has been playing baseball for as long as he can remember.

"It looked like fun," Washington said. "I started playing and I was hooked."

The Morris High School senior is set to take what he has learned over the years to the next level as he signed a letter of intent April 25 to play for the Independence Community College Pirates in Independence, Kan.

Washington said he fell in love with the sport and position that he plays, catcher.

He also said that warming up, playing catch or doing drills helps him remain focused.

"I do play a lot of baseball," Washington said. "Because of that, I see a lot of players who are very good from all over. So I have to do these drills to stay sharp."

Washington had other colleges looking at him and shared why he chose ICC.

"I went to visit the school and I knew it was the best choice for me," he said. "The other schools did not seem right when I made my visits."

Washington believes he can start playing at the start of the season but knows that it will be a challenge.

"It is going to be a lot faster but I like that," Washington said. "It is going to be tough but I am doing everything to be ready."

ICC is a junior college so he knows other schools will be looking at their team for players.

"ICC has a great track record of sending players to a four year college," Washington said. "ICC will help me to get use to college baseball and get bigger and stronger for this level."

His baseball coach from Morris High School, Kevin Ball calls Washington an all-around player for his team.

"ICC is gaining someone who is going to be a big help," Ball said. "We are going to be losing leadership both on and off the field."

Washington wants to major in something related to engineering.

"That is what I want to pursue," Washington said. "I would like to be an engineer but not sure of what field."

Washington is a member of the Wind Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. His parents are Ed and Sabrina Washington

ADELINE FEATHERS

LOOMIS, Calif. — Adeline Feathers died April 17, 2016 at the age of 102 in Loomis. She was born in North Fork, Okla., to William and Fannie Griffin. At age 15, she and her sister Carmen took the train to attend an all-Indian boarding school (Chilocco) located in the northern region of Oklahoma. In her teens, Adeline loved attending square dance parties with her sisters and she would occasionally dance a little jig even into her 90s.

She married Buford Feathers upon returning home from boarding school. While living in Oklahoma, they had three sons: Randy, Roger and Larry. Compelled by the poor post-dust bowl era economy, the family moved to Hughson in 1949. There, she and Buford had a fourth son, Stan. Ultimately, the family settled on a small ranch in Hughson. She worked at a food processing cannery in Modesto and retired from the Teamsters Union.

She was a special individual who was loved and admired by her large extended family and friends. She had a flair for telling colorful and sometimes unforgettable stories about her life and times. She was a talented quilt maker, loved to sew and owned a variety of vintage sewing machines.

Her favorite pastimes included reading, singing old songs, writing stories and poetry, playing the piano and watching baseball and basketball games on TV. She will be missed and remembered.

She is survived by: sons, Roger Feathers of Denair, Larry (Barbara Gladean) Feathers of Loomis and Stan (Barbara) Feathers of Turlock; grandchildren and their families: Randy Feathers Jr., Diann Feathers, Debra Crawford, Michele Turpin, Aaron Feathers, Vickie Terres, Becky Nalbandian, Mark Feathers, Andrea Feathers and Tim Feathers; nine great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; younger sister, Joan Frechetti; daughter-in-law Joan (Randy) Feathers and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Buford Feathers; son, Randy Feathers; siblings, Junior Bill Griffin, Carmen Fife, Bob Griffin, Greta Reddick, Ruba Lee Bart, Hazel Scott, Esther Bales and daughter in-law Margie (Roger) Feathers.

Services were held April 28 at Lakewood Cemetery in Hughson.

JAMES PROCTOR

MCALESTER, Okla. — James Sonny Proctor was born Nov. 2, 1944 in Hanna and passed away July 1, 2016 in McAlester.

A funeral service was set for July 6 at Weogufkee Missionary Indian Baptist Church in Hanna. Arrangements have been entrusted to McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

RICHARD HARLEY SR.

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Richard Thompson 'Snow' Harley Sr. passed away from this life July 3, 2016 in Henryetta at the age of 64. He was born in Henryetta on Nov. 2, 1951 to Ceaetta Harjo and Pauline Harley.

Richard grew up in the Henryetta area and following his schooling, joined the U.S. Army where he faithfully served for two years from 1972 to 1974, including a tour of duty in Germany. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Richard returned home and married the love of his life, Cindy Joann McNac in August of 1976 in Hanna.

Richard received training as a heavy equipment operator and completed an auto mechanics course. Richard was also an accomplished welder. He was a longtime member of the Yardeka Baptist Church. He loved doing beadwork and enjoyed games of stickball.

He also loved riding his motorcycle, shooting a game of pool, playing softball and archery. But most of all, Richard was a loving son, father, grandfather, and uncle and he will be missed by the many people who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his: mother, his father, and an infant baby sister.

Richard is survived by: a son, Richard Harley Jr. and wife Audra of Okmulgee; grandchildren, Chase, Rachel, Catherine and Madalynn Harley, all of Okmulgee; brothers, Robert Soloman of Okmulgee and Speedy Harley of Okmulgee; two nieces and four nephews; and an ex-wife, Cindy Harley of Okmulgee; as well as other extended family and many good friends.

Viewing was held July 7 at Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta.

A funeral service was held July 9 at Weogufkee Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating. Interment followed immediately at Soloman Family Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Joe Sulphur, John Wayne Tulsa, Billy Ray Harley, Jaydee Harley, Barney Ingram and Paul Pigeon. Honorary pallbearers were Bobby Yargee and William Hawkins.

An Online Guestbook is available at: www.integrityfuneralservice.com.

MVTO

The family of Brandy Tiger would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers. We received so much help from her clinic staffmates, friends and patients. We miss her so much everyday. Thank you to Chief Floyd, Second Chief Hicks, Shelly Thomas, Sharon Rose, Dr. Tulley, the whole Washington family, Ronnie Sands, George Holuby and Beetes. So much comfort was given by people who introduced themselves as her patients. Brandy would be happy to know she meant so much to so many.

- Thank you, the Brandy Tiger family

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.

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- CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
- ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
- VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

Legislation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

terests of all other tribes of the country and we oppose that," Floyd said.

He said that if the bill becomes law, "it would render our lawsuit moot and thus we again would be left with no answers, no resolution and for a tribe of 82,000 members that is not acceptable."

Floyd said that MCN has asked to be a part of the review process for H.R. 5486 so that the Nation's opinions and thoughts are documented.

The legislation could override the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Carcieri v. Salazar, which states the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs can only place land into trust for tribes who were recognized by 1934. According to www.pci-nsn.gov, PBCI became federally recognized in 1984.

Floyd said an addition to the 2017 U.S. Department of the Interior appropriation bill for a "Carcieri fix" could have the same effect to the lawsuit.

Thompson said while the lawsuit affects Hickory Ground specifically, the issue could eventually affect other ceremonial grounds and tribal towns.

"One day these other tribal towns could face the same issue that we are facing today," Thompson said.

Floyd said MCN will work through the legal and legislative systems to seek a resolution to the issue, and will consider alternatives depending on the outcome of the legislation or the lawsuit.

Floyd said that he and Thompson co-signed a letter sent to the chairman and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee stating MCN's opposition to the proposed legislation.

He said MCN will raise the issue to the National Congress of American Indians and other national organizations. He expects the issue to be discussed at the upcoming Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in July.

"We have the absolute responsibility to make sure that's preserved, to make sure that even if possible that it be returned to us so that if they can't be stewards of this property, that we uphold our traditional responsibility for thousands of years and keep that land intact and preserved," Floyd said.

Thompson said he is thankful for the support of MCN government officials.

"It gives you the incentive to fight this thing… we're not in the political arena, so we need a lot of help there," he said.

The information about the bill provided at www.congress.gov does not give a schedule for when the bill will be reviewed by the House Committee on Natural Resources. The last action was June 15, when the bill was referred to the committee for review.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' contacted U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin June 22 for comment, and his press secretary stated that he was unable to provide an interview or statement by the press deadline. 'MNN' contacted U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, the PBCI and MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger June 22 for statements and did not receive a response by press time.

Citizen wins Department of Justice award

Bourque recognized for crime victim advocacy

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cheryl Renee Bourque was one of four individuals recognized throughout the country by the U.S. Department of Justice as part of National Crime Victims' Right Week in April.

Bourque is a victim specialist with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services and is assigned to the Pine Ridge Agency located in South Dakota.

"Our beliefs and our traditions, although different, holds true to all of us," she said. "So I have a lot of respect for what their customs are and how they feel with their beliefs. I feel I have a connection with them."

She has worked with victims of crime through other agencies for several years, not only in South Dakota but also her home state of Oklahoma.

"I have worked on both reservations and the many jurisdictions at home," Bourque said. "The reservation I am working at now is about the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined."

Bourque said that like others in her line of work, she has had personal experiences that help her empathize with clients.

According to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, 'Bourque has been assigned to the Pine Ridge Agency for the last 25 months, where she has helped literally hundreds of crime victims.

'The victims have benefitted from her extensive knowledge and experience in dealing with violent crimes, as she guided them through some of the most traumatic times in their lives.

'Ms. Bourque's experience as an advocate and law enforcement officer provides a unique perspective on systems' response in addressing victim's needs.'

According to the release, 'she has held several different positions on boards and task forces.'

"Being on all these boards and task forces has helped me to get ready and to prepare myself for who I am today," Bourque said.

Letter to the Editor



RE: An article in the June 17, 2016 – Return of the 'Living Legends' Okmulgee Times

Gail Ellis/*Non-citizen*

BEGGS, Okla. — As the article stated, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis created the 'Living Legends' Ceremony during the 2005 Festival and continued the ceremony through 2011, the final year of his second term as principal chief.

During Chief Ellis' administration, a representative from each department of the Nation would read recommendations from Creek people concerning their choice of a "Living Legend." Each department had one vote for the citizen they felt should be honored. Now, the honored "Living Legends" are chosen by one MCN department – Tourism and Recreation.

It is good to see the 'Living Legends' returning to the Nation. In 2012 Chief Tiger dissolved the 'Living Legends' Ceremony and replaced it with 'The Hall of Fame Gala' where tuxedos, strapless gowns or traditional clothing was required. In 2012 attendance was set at fee of $250 per plate, or for $10,000 you could purchase a table and be given 30 minutes of talk time with the chief and second chief. It didn't quite seem like the traditional 'Mvskoke Way.'

Chief A.D. Ellis

Served eight years representing the Okmulgee District on the National Council and four years as second chief during Chief Beaver's administration.

Was elected principal chief in 2003 during the primary election (never in the history of MCN elections had or has this been done) and was re-elected in 2007 for his second term.

The following are just a few accomplishments during Chief Ellis' Administration. Along with the National Council:

1. Mvskoke Dome (where the 'Living Legends' Ceremony was held

2. College of the Mvskoke Nation

3. Purchase of the historic Council House in downtown Okmulgee with help from Mike Flud who maintained an interaction with the City of Okmulgee.

4. Completion of the River Spirit Casino.

5. Koweta Clinic

6. Southwest Regional Center

7. Lighthorse building

8. Attorney General building

9. Veterans program

10. Veterans building

11. Minimum wage for tribal employees raised to $10 per hour.

12. Resurgence of the Festival parade.

13. Annual Mekkos meetings

14. Annual church meetings

15. Creation of the secretary of the Nation position.

16. Elderly housing built

17. Transit system created

18. Housing Authority under the direction of the Tribe not HUD

20. All gaming revenue from all casinos in the boundaries of the Nation returned to the tribal treasury for all citizens.

21. Maintained a transparent government with any information from his office or the National Council for all citizens to see.

22. Always had an 'Open Door' policy and would see all who asked to see him, without them having to explain why they wanted to see the chief and without going through an entourage of employees.

23. With much respect, never failed to send invitations to former Chief Beaver and his wife Mariam to all groundbreakings, grand-opening events, shows at the Event Center and even the birthday celebration that was on the same date. Respect is a lost commodity in the Nation.

24. He honored elders with a 'Birthday Certificate' from the Office of the Principal Chief.

25. He participated in the JOM Challenge Bowls for the youth.

26. Truly a chief for all citizens of Mvskoke Nation.

Chief A.D. Ellis – is a Living Legend

Sincerely,
Gail Ellis

Bristow community election set Aug. 6

BRISTOW, Okla. — The Bristow Indian Community has set an officer election for Aug. 6 at the community center, 710 S. Main, Bristow, OK 74010.

For more information call BIC election committee secretary Anita White: 918-231-6890.

TCIC election set for Sept. 22

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Sept. 22 for the chairman and secretary positions, each of which consists of two-year terms.

The deadline for submitting a letter of intent and $20 for a background check is Aug. 19 by 5 p.m.

For more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

Benefit Powwow set for Oct. 1

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powwow is set for Oct. 1 at the Student Life Center, 2412 E. Shawnee Bypass, Muskogee OK. Admission is free and attendees are encouraged to bring seating.

For event information call: 918-682-2586.

MNN submission deadlines

Aug. 1 — July 22

Aug. 15 — Aug. 8

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

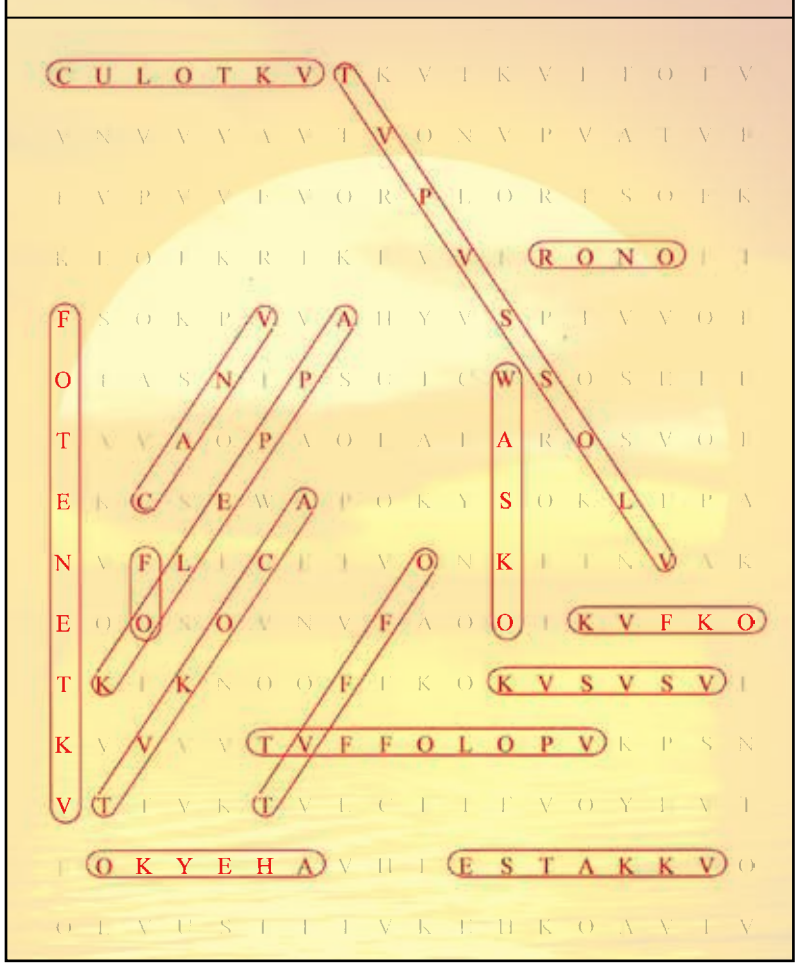
Sept. 15 — Sept. 7

Oct. 1 — Sept. 22

Oct. 15 — Oct. 6

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24

July 1 word search solution



Mvskoke Media editorial policies approved Feb. 26, 2016

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

Mvskoke Media became an independent statutory executive agency through the passage of NCA 15-218, creating a free press law for Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The law was passed unanimously by the National Council, and signed by the principal chief.

The content of submissions shall not contain personal attacks or statements denigrating another person's character either directly or implicitly.

The content of submissions shall not contain false or unsubstantiated claims or statements that make claims which, cannot be independently verified.

The content of submissions shall not contain political rhetoric intended to advance the political position of any candidate for MCN office.

Mvskoke Media reserves the right to edit any submitted letter or column so that it conforms to this policy. Such changes to submissions shall be made at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Submissions shall include the name and phone number or email address of the author so the editorial staff may confirm the author. Submissions without contact information will not be published.

Submissions shall be received by the deadline prior to publication. For a list of deadlines, contact Mvskoke Media at: 918-732-7720.

Submissions shall not be published anonymously. Submissions will be attributed by author's full name and city of residence.

Letters from Muscogee (Creek) citizens will be given preference. Letters from non-citizens will be labeled as such.

Mvskoke Media may loosely edit the submission for length and style.

Columns will be published at the invitation of the Manager and shall not exceed 800 words. Columns submitted without invitation shall not be published without specific permission from the Manager.

Mvskoke Media reserves the right to decline a submission based upon the above criteria and pertinence to the audience.

'Muscogee Nation News' will run graduate profiles once per year in a specified edition. Submissions will be free of charge, but must adhere to the published graduate edition specifications. No graduate announcements outside of this edition will be accepted.

'MNN' will allow community calendar announcements for event announcements involving the Muscogee (Creek) community. Announcements will be shortened to include date, time, place and brief description.

'MNN' allows obituary submissions for Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Submissions may contain a photo.

Open Mvskoke Media Editorial Board meetings are held monthly and notice is published 10 days in advance on the 'MNN' Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews.

Change equals experience then wisdom

Highland Park
Non-citizen submission

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Recently, as I was doing a bio for one of our residents turning 100, the realization hit me as to how many dramatic changes she has experienced since her birth in 1916.

Transportation went from horse and buggy to automobiles, to airplanes, to rockets.

Communication went from letter writing to telegraph to telephone to iPads, the Internet and the list goes on and on.

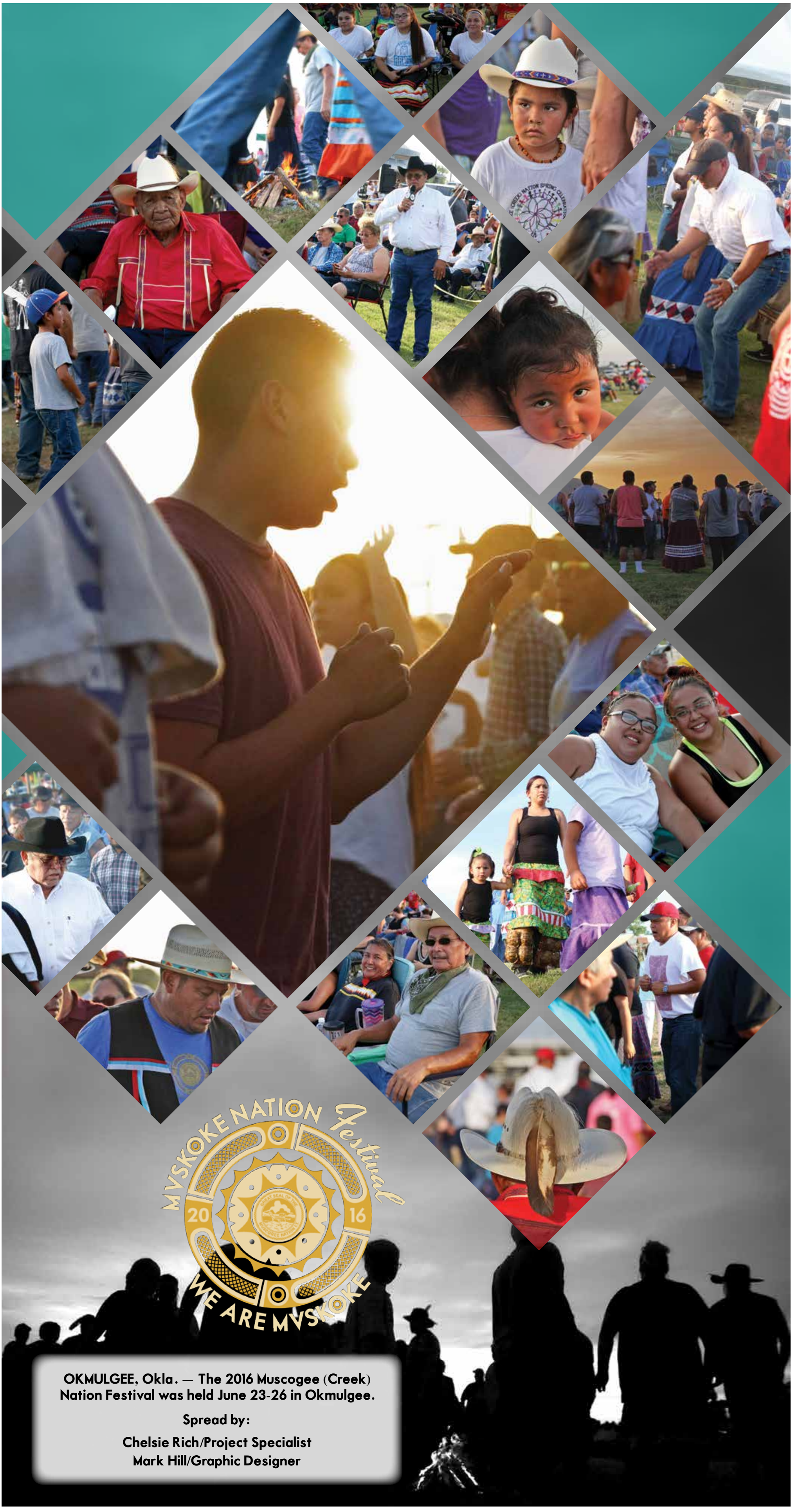
In 1918, the average hourly wage was between .53-.61 cents and the average weekly income was around $9.63. A gallon of milk was .28 cents and a pound of bacon was .53 cents.

Change threatens us and we fear it because its situations are unfamiliar of we have no experience dealing with an unknown. There is a natural human resistance to change and its uncertainties. Why is it that the classic quote says 'the wise old owl' instead of 'the wise young owl?' The answer is experience. Our elders can help us understand and adapt our course in achieving our goals by sharing their ways of coping with past experiences.

Wisdom is a virtue that is not innate but can only be acquired thru experience. Wisdom is not the same as intelligence. 'Psychology Today' states that wisdom involves an integration of knowledge, experience and deep understanding that incorporates tolerance for the uncertainties of life as well as its ups and downs.

In many Native American cultures, 'storytellers' carry lessons across generational lines. Storytelling is writing the past, living the present and preserving the future. As 'Native Daughters states' stories reflect the cycle of life.

It seems a shame that after a person reaches an advanced age with accumulated knowledge thru experience, seldom are they called upon to share any of their wisdom. So the next time Grandma or Grandpa begin to tell you one of their stories, listen, you just might learn something. Till next time.

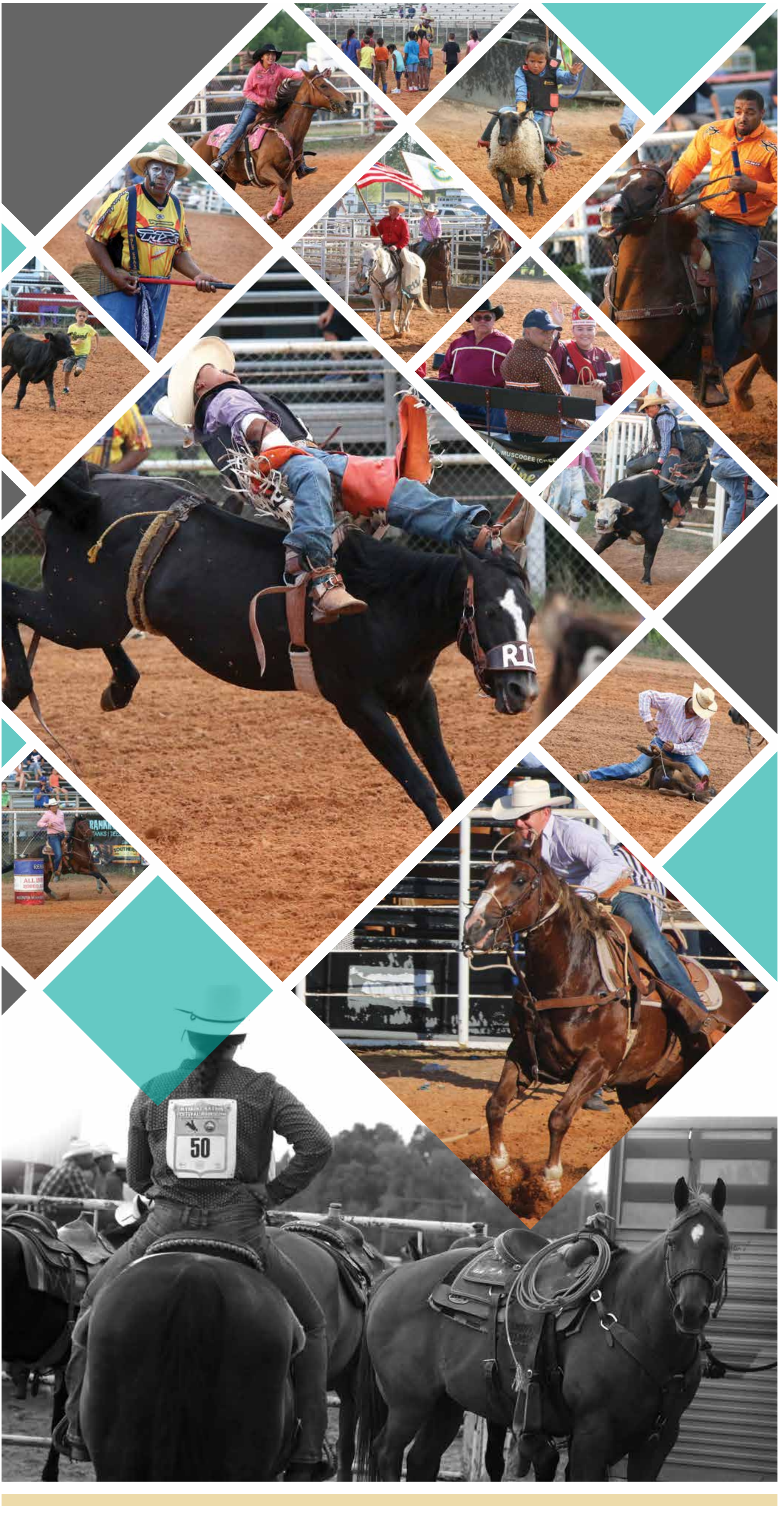


OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival was held June 23-26 in Okmulgee.

Spread by:

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist
Mark Hill/Graphic Designer




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Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Aug. 1, 2016 "Hiyo Rakko" Big Harvest

Vol. 46, Issue 15



Citizen graduates Notre Dame, shadows at Okemah clinic

— Page 7

Muscogee Nation News

HUD audit finds housing program deficiencies

Floyd, Tiger discuss findings

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The U.S. Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development released their findings July 8 from an audit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Program.

The report, which reviews years 2013-2015, is available online at: www.hudoig.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016-FW-1003.pdf.

The report identifies nine deficiencies resulting in $219,839 in questionable expenditures.

'These conditions occurred because the Nation's staff did not follow its or HUD's requirements. In addition, the Nation's payments and rents policy did not comply with Federal regulations,' the report states.

The audit recommends that MCN repay $219,839 to HUD from its non-federal funds, as well as update policies and procedures, and train staff to prevent the deficiencies from re-occurring.

What did the auditors look at?

The reviewed files included nine of 385 identity of interest participants, which would include individuals related to MCN officials or employees, 34 of 70 contracts and seven of 68 lease files.

The auditors compared the files to HUD regulations and MCN policies.

Findings: Lease to non-low-income family

The audit found that the Nation approved a lease to a non-low-income participant without HUD approval.

The scenario described states that the home was purchased for $150,835 for a low-income participant in

Audit - 5

State Native affairs official reviews year on 'Mvskoke Radio'

Benge talks policy on broad range of issues

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an hour-long interview July 20 with 'Mvskoke Radio,' Oklahoma's top ranking state official for Native American affairs shared his thoughts and information on being secretary of state and Native American liaison, after a lengthy career in the state legislature.

Chris Benge had a long career in the Oklahoma Legislature and was selected for the new positions in February 2015. He is the second Native person to hold the Native American liaison post, which is now a governor's cabinet position.

MR host Gary Fife spoke with Benge about legislative issues and keeping in touch

Affairs - 9

Midpoint celebration held for community hospital

Facility to be open to community

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a midpoint celebration ceremony for construction of the MCN Community Hospital July 20 in Okemah.

"The facility behind me means expanded space. It means more services for our patients. It means a better future for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the Okemah community," Acting MCN Secretary of Health Shoneen Alexander Ross said.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said the 18-bed facility will replace the current Okemah facility that was built in 1978.

The new facility is a community access hospital that will have a maximum stay of 96 hours. It will also provide outpatient and specialized services.

Floyd said MCNCH will

Midpoint - 6

MCN splash pad closed for repairs

Project under warranty

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation announced July 5 that the splash pad located at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee will be closed until further notice in order to make repairs.

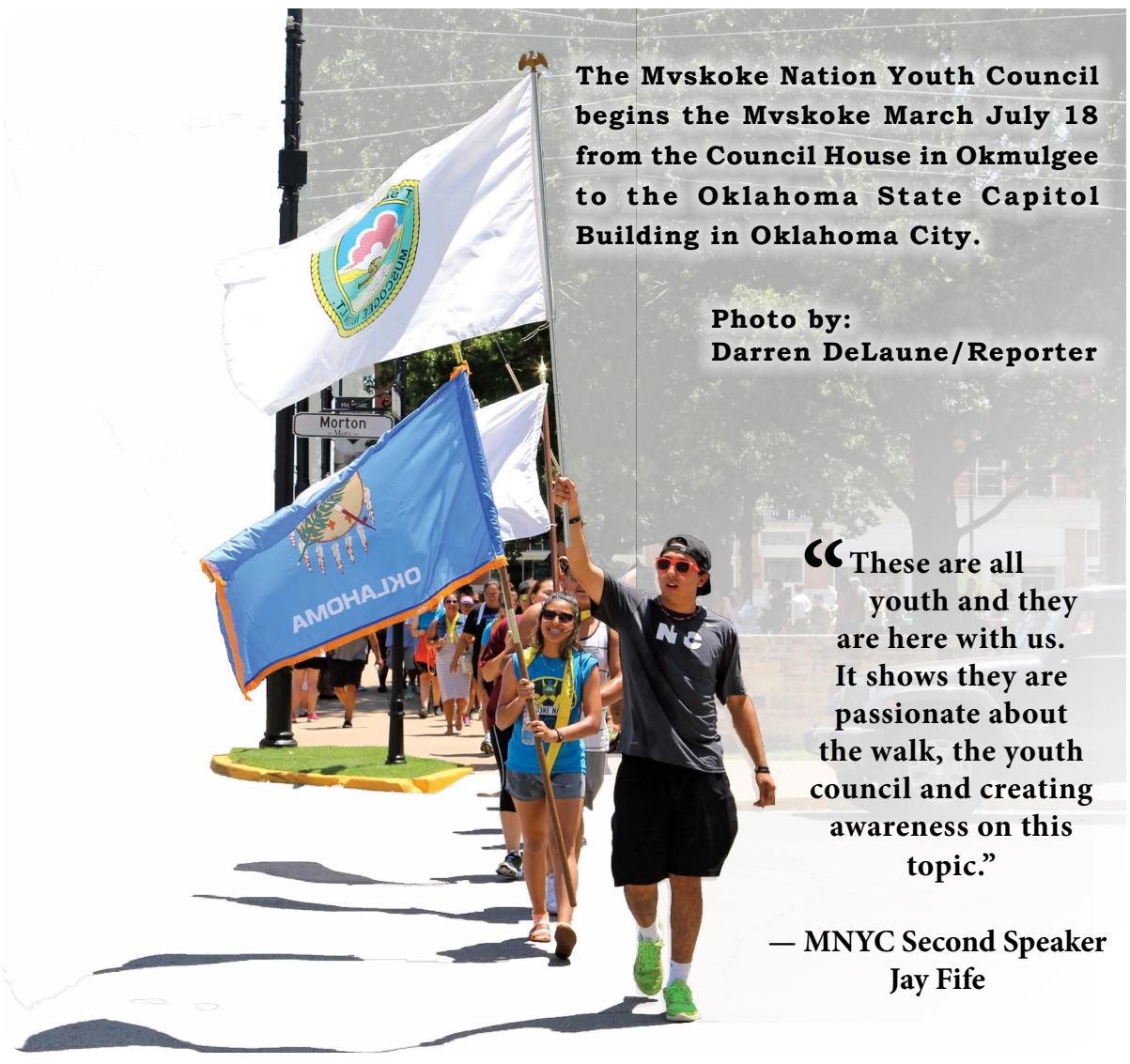
"There were some issues with the splash pad that are under warranty," MCN Secretary of the Interior Chris Azbell said. "The company has been contacted to remedy the deficiencies. Those will all be covered under the warranty."

Azbell said they will also be discussing the amount of water used with the construction company.

He explained that the water can be turned on for 30 minute increments by a button located at the splash pad.

"So we want to make sure that maybe it's on in five minute increments or 10 minute increments, smaller amount of increments to re-

Closed - 2



Mvskoke Nation Youth Council marches into history

Inaugural event starts at MCN capital, to end at OK capitol

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What started as an idea, turned into an inaugural Muscogee (Creek) Nation event.

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council started off on the first Mvskoke March July 18 from the MCN Council House in Okmulgee towards Oklahoma City.

MNYC Second Speaker Jay Fife, 16, said their inspiration came from the Longest Walk 5 led by American Indian Movement principal founder Dennis Banks, which came through Oklahoma earlier this year.

"I participated in both Oklahoma and Alabama," Fife said.

The journey was approximately 110 miles and took place during temperature highs forecast at around 100 degrees. MNYC structured the trip with relay teams, where each took a five to six mile leg each day before letting the next continue.

Fife said the main goal was to raise awareness about teen dating violence in Indian Country.

"No one will talk about it," he said. "This is one of the reasons for the walk."

The first part of the journey went along Highway 56 and ended that evening at the Phillip Deere Roundhouse on the Deere family allotment in Okemah.

Day two began at the intersection of Highways 56 and 62, and continued along 62 stopping at Paden.

Fife said MNYC continued along 62 until it becomes 23rd street in Oklahoma City, where they reached the capitol building July 21 by heading south from there.

That day, the temperature topped out at 98 degrees.

"Yes, we complained about the heat," MNYC Speaker Darrell Proctor II said. "With the support that we had, it helped to make us to complete this march."

A rally was held in the capitol chambers upon their arrival and participants met with MCN Tax Commissioner and Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak in the House of Representatives Gallery.

During the rally, Cierra Fields, 17, shared her story as a rape survivor and advocate against sexual assault and en-

Marches - 2

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services holds cultural expression camps

Traditions fostered with next generation

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program hosted various camps over the summer of 2016 to connect local youth to beneficial opportunities offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Mvskoke youth had the opportunity to attend four different camps this summer: Hvpo Meske (Summer Camp), Botball Camp, Cultural Expression Camp and Kometve Eccvlke (Hope Shooters) Camp.

Hvpo Meske was held at the Holdenville Indian Community Center June 6-8 in Holdenville and the Wetumka Indian Community Center June 20-21 in Wetumka.

"The theme was 'Creating Creek Connections' so that was introducing young people to several different programs within the Nation, history, some of the culture, some traditional activities."

— Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Director Nancy Mason

"The theme was 'Creating Creek Connections,' so that was introducing young people to several different programs within the Nation, history, some of the culture, some traditional activities," MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

The camp featured activities such as games, Mvskoke language and culture, health and wellness, personal and social development and physical activities.

"What that is, is trying to bridge the gap between our services through Creek Nation to the youth," MNYS Program Development Specialist Cassandra Thompson said.

A Botball Camp was held June 13-15 in Holdenville and June 28-30 in Okmulgee to expand the students' science, technology, engineering, math and writing skills to design, build and program robots for competitions.

"The camp coordinator for Botball gave us some good feedback as far as the skills that the youth got," Mason said. "She was really surprised at how advanced some of them were with their Botball even though they've never done it before."

The Cultural Expression Camp was held July 11-15 at Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center in Glenpool.

The camp presented youth with first-hand experience on art in the Mvskoke culture such as basketry, storytelling, can-making, cooking, handcrafting and sewing.

"A lot of different artistic pieces that they were involved in. They had to have an interest in the arts in someway, whether that be sewing or painting or drawing," Mason said.

MNYS collaborated with the MCN Cultural Center and Archieves to host the Kometv Eccvlke Camp. It was a traditional bow-shooting camp for participants to learn the history of the tradition and practice shooting skills.

Thompson shared what she believed were the main goals of the summer camps.

"To keep the kids busy, give them something to do … just bridging the gap of all the services and different things the kids could be doing through the school year and not just through the summer," she said.

For more information about MNYS call: 918-549-2557.

Marches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

couraged the participants.

"You have brought the message to our very literal capital of our state," Fields said. "What you guys have done is very brave and very important and it is something you should continue doing."

In an interview, MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Manager Shawn Partridge said she is pleased that her department was able to help MNYC raise awareness about teen dating violence.

"We are proud," Partridge said. "When Jay brought the idea to us, we wanted to do everything we could to be supportive. It is an honor and privilege for us to participate."

"We need to get this going to show everyone that we can do something like this. Then, when it is our time, we will pass on it to the ones younger than us."

— Mvskoke March participant JoJo Kahbeah

Partridge said teen dating violence is just as much of a problem as domestic violence. She expressed a hope that the march participants believe they are making a difference.

"Our youth, by doing this, are passing the information on to their communities, families and churches that will help impact our Nation," Partridge said.

Fife said he is pleased that they had over 30 participants.

"These are all youth and they are here with us," Fife said. "It shows they are passionate about the walk, the youth council and creating awareness on this topic."

Proctor said this effort also raises awareness about the Trail of Tears.

"In a way, I think about the Removal and what my ancestors went through," Proctor said. "We are facing some challenges but nothing near the trials and tribulations that they went through. We know the reason for this march but it helps us to remember that too."

Participant JoJo Kahbeah said MNYC is setting a foundation for the next generation.

"We need to get this going to show everyone that we can do something like this," Kahbeah said. "Then when it is our time, we will pass on it to the ones younger than us."

After the rally, MNYC went on to the United National Indian Tribal Youth conference, which began that day in Oklahoma City.

Closed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

duce water," Azbell said.

He said the company has been out for an initial site assessment and will be making a full assessment and adjustments in the near future.

Azbell said there is not a timeline for when the splash pad will reopen.

"We're hoping to get it back up obviously this summer, maybe about a month," he said. "We'll just have to see once the company gets out here."

The splash pad was funded through a $99,999 appropriation approved June 20, 2015 by the MCN National Council.

The site officially opened at the Omniplex May 10.

Tribal police look to purchase surveillance tower

Lighthorse seeks bird's eye

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For the past two Muscogee (Creek) Nation festivals, attendees may have noticed a tower of some sort in different areas throughout the event grounds in Okmulgee.

This structure is a mobile security and command post called the Great White Surveillance Tower, which has been leased by the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department to help increase safety.

LTPD Chief of Police Daniel Wind III said the surveillance tower is a great thing to have year round.

"This is a powerful tool," Wind said. "When you can get above the crowd the view is a lot crisper than what we can see at ground level."

Wind said the tower is equipped with five cameras that can be used at night. He said it also has speakers to provide verbal directions to those on the ground and a siren.

LTPD Deputy Chief of Police Robert Hawkins said the command post can help increase the response time of officers on the ground.

"With this tower, we know where the problem is at and we know where we can get the additional units to," Hawkins said.

Wind said he is especially impressed by its mobility.

"We can use it where it is most needed during events such as the Festival," Wind said.

Hawkins said this tool can be used by other departments.

"This can be used at other functions where surveillance is needed," Hawkins said. "Places such as the River-Walk."

LTPD plans to request an appropriation to cover the cost.

"We are looking to make a presentation to (National) Council, chief and second chief," Wind said.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. The **Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The **Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The **Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens' households upon request. Inquiries should be directed to Mvskoke Media. Please include your tribal enrollment number or last four digits of your social security number accompanied by your date of birth with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918 - 732 - 7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association

Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Paddy's gym brings life to city



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Paddy's Gym located in downtown Okmulgee, Okla., offers cardio kickboxing and other fitness classes.

Owner welcomes everyone to try gym

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Jarrod Horath or how he is best known among the members at Paddy's Cardio Kickboxing gym located in downtown Okmulgee, 'Coach Slim,' has always been around martial arts.

Even from a young age, it has been something that helped him get focused and above all else give him a great workout.

"I have always been around it," Horath said. "I have loved it since childhood. I had my first set of nunchuks when I was eight-years-old."

Hailing from Sapulpa, Horath took what he learned from the different gyms and dojos that he frequented to start Paddy's.

"I have to show respect to everyone who has helped with me in my training," Horath said.

Horath said his gym can help with self-esteem, fitness and above all, making new friends who will always be there. He said everyone pushes each other to become better than they were the day before.

"Everyone knows everyone here," Horath said. "We get along but if there is ever a disagreement, we can talk it out if needed."

Horath has heard from parents who are skeptical about martial arts. He said that some were concerned that their children would become bullies and start picking on other children.

Horath said it is the opposite.

"We teach that if they are in those situations to where they can walk away, they should walk away," Horath said.

Horath said children who find out his students are taking martial arts sometimes try to pick a fight them and then they are often forced to take a stand.

"If there is no possible way to get out of the situation then that is when they should defend themselves," Horath said.

So far, Horath said he is getting nothing but support from his students' parents and that they say that their children are more focused at school and demonstrate better behavior and respect.

"That is what I want from them, a change in character for the better," Horath said. "Once they respect themselves, they will respect everyone."

One of these students is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Manager Lena Pizzolatto who trained at Paddy's for competition.

View more coverage about Pizzolatto at: http://tinyurl.com/gqc66qn.

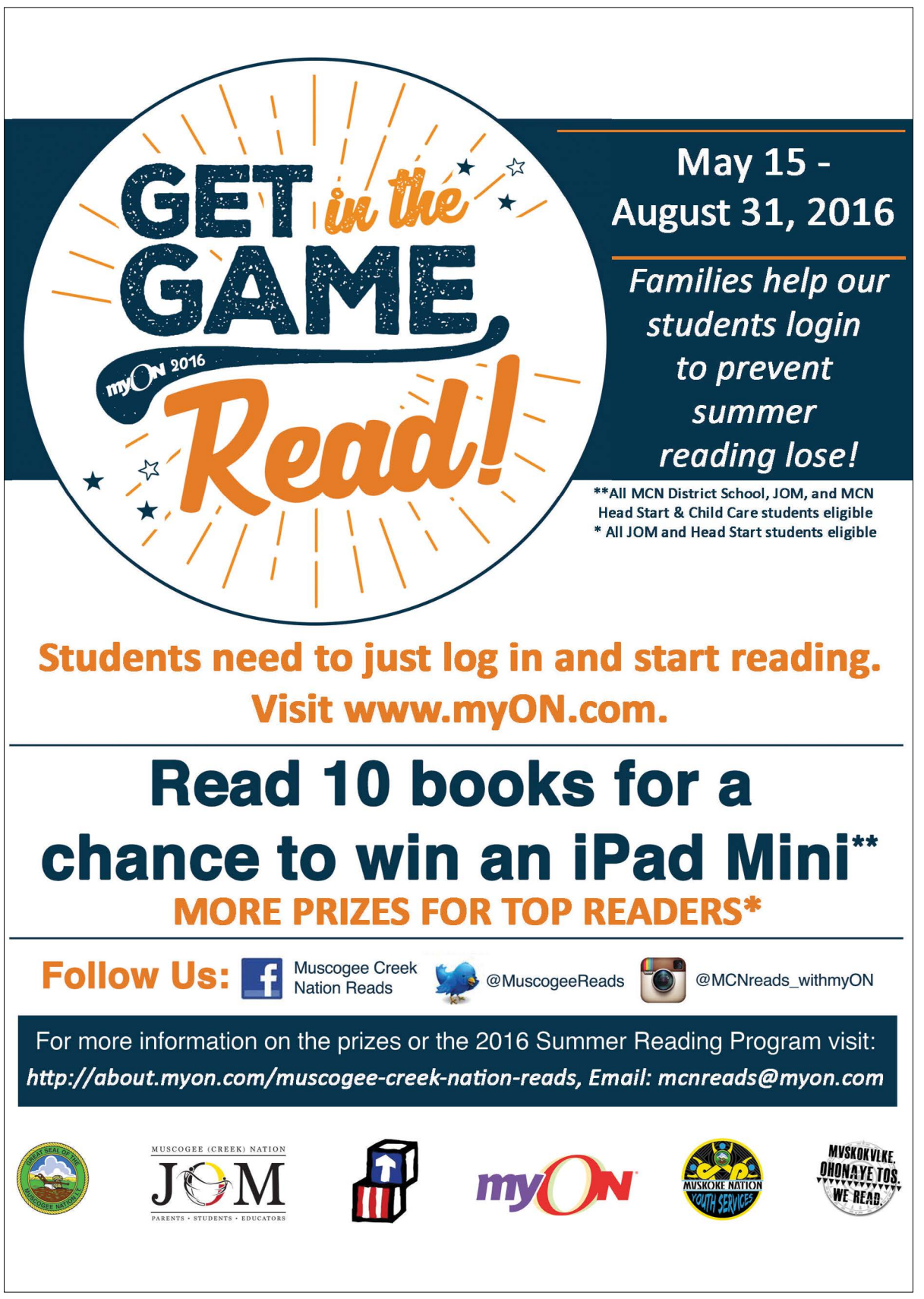
Horath said prayer has helped his gym and the people who are a part of it. He has some people who are of a different religion or that do not pray but they are courteous to the people that do.

"Everyone is equal here," Horath said. "We pray five times a day at my gym. For anyone who wants to participate, they can. For the ones that do not pray and are of another religion, we show respect to them and they do the same for us."

Horath calls Okmulgee home for Paddy's Cardio Kickboxing Gym. He wants his gym to help with the City of Okmulgee resurgence.

"Paddy's is going to be somewhere, where it is needed," Horath said. "We want to help this city in anyway we can."

For more information about Paddy's, drop by the gym located at: 112 E. 6th St. in Okmulgee between 1-9 p.m., Monday-Friday.



Nation builds bird island in river near Margaritaville



Smithsonian's Museum website
A sandbar was built for the interior least terns to nest near River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla., providing habit for the endangered species.

Pilot project hopes to create first self-sustaining tern sandbar

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Watching the Arkansas River flow past River Spirit Casino, you might mistake the bird for a seagull and wonder what on earth it is doing flying and hunting over 500 miles from the ocean.

The yellow webbed-foot, white-feathered bird with a black crown on its head, known as the interior least tern, migrates to the sandy prairie rivers in Oklahoma to hunt minnows and nest during the summer months.

"Like other sea birds, they really don't build a true nest," Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Wildlife Diversity Biologist Mark Howery said. "Their 'nest' is a depression that's hollowed out in the ground and they might put a few sticks or a few little pebbles around it."

Small colonies of terns can typically be found on sandbars in the Arkansas River from May-September.

Howery said the bird's average life span is around 12 years if they survive their first year.

Eggs have an incubation period of 21 days, and it takes around 19 days from hatching until the young ones can take flight.

During winter, the birds migrate back to the warm climates of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean or South America.

Howery said the reason why terns choose to come up this far north away from the ocean is somewhat of a mystery.

"I don't think anybody knows," he said. "It's kind of beyond anybody's understanding, but they take advantage of the food supply that's here in the summer time and that prompts them to move up north to nest."

Interior least terns were declared an endangered species in 1985, and were one of four species construction crews at the Margaritaville expansion had to prepare for and be aware of.

If you stand on the top of the parking garage and face the Arkansas River looking north, you might see what appears to be a chevron shaped rock and sand formation towards the middle and east side of the river.

PMg Owner and Sr. Environmental Program Manager Gaylon Pinc said that any time development occurs in or near the Arkansas River, entities have to apply for a permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The permit includes plans for mitigation measures to help cancel out potential damaging effects to endangered and protected species' habitats.

PMg was contracted by the River Spirit expansion project to handle the permit and manage the sandbar project.

Pinc said a sandbar was timed for construction during a specific part of the expansion so the project did not conflict with the terns' nesting place and process.

"They don't do well on sandbars that are connected to the river bank and the upland areas because predators like their young and their eggs so they can become impacted by predators," he said. "This is all part of the food chain."

Federal regulations require that the Nation permanently maintain the island, even if the bird is removed from the endangered list.

Pinc said other tern islands in the Arkansas River have to be rebuilt with sand every few years due to erosion.

He is hoping that nature will maintain the island built by MCN.

"It's kind of a pilot project that the Nation has entered into through this permit," Pinc said. "U.S. Fish and Wildlife is looking for an island design that is sustainable under various (river) flows and requires minimal maintenance."

The island was built with rock in a shape meant to catch sand and limit erosion.

Pinc is hoping sand and sediment will be trapped between the shapes, and naturally rebuild the island with the river flow.

"We're going to create permanent habitat that will be less affected by the run of the river flows and it will be armored and located where least terns are known to nest and terns, if their previous nesting sites are available, they like to go back to where they've nested before," he said.

This is the first self-sustaining tern island built in the area.

Pinc said the official monitoring period forn the experiment is five years.

"Every year, we will monitor it and we will report its progress and we'll probably know, we'll have a good idea even after this year as we have enough high flows, if the high flows either deposit sand or take it away," he said.

Parrotheads will also be able to view the habitat and terns potentially nesting on the island while enjoying their frozen concoctions.

Emvponayv: One who tells the story



MNN File Photo

Athletic games honor fallen Native hero, blanket maker, HUD audit

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An athletic competition started to honor the first Native American woman to die in combat in the modern age has been growing stronger these days. Lori Piestewa served in the U.S. Army from 2001-2003.

The Lori Piestewa National Native Games was started in 2003 with 200 athletes competing in five games. Today, the 'Arizona Republic' reports, the most recent games held in July 2016, saw more that 3,200 competitors in seven sports.

Spc. Piestewa was killed in an ambush in southern Iraq. When her home town of Tuba City, Ariz., learned of Lori's death, residents hung signs stating, 'Turn on your porch lights, show Lori the way home.'

During all of this year's political campaign rhetoric and stupidity, a cap favored by supporters of a guy who wears his own 'cap' of comb-over hair says 'Make America Great Again.'

In response, a Native designer is marketing a cap making the rounds throughout Indian Country in the Southwest that says, 'Make America Native Again.'

In Iowa, a former U.S. National Park Service official who said he was 'devoted' to the Native American remains in his care, got one year of home detention and 10 weekends in jail for stealing ancient remains from Effigy Mounds National Monument in 1990 and hiding them in his garage for years.

'CBS News' reported that Thomas Munson, former superintendent, removed bones and stashed them at his home. Munson told investigators he was concerned about the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which calls for reburials consistent with tribal traditions.

Once the bones were gone, no tribe could claim them and rebury them. Munson was ordered to pay over $100k to repair the stolen remains. When restored, the remains are expected to be returned to tribes. At least he didn't try to build a casino over the graves.

A piece in the 'Washington Post' said the urban Sidwell Friends school has banned all clothing bearing the image of the Disneyland-On-The-Potomac R-Skins football team.

In February, a Native American activist had been invited to speak to students at a school in the nation's capital about the impact of the Native American style logo and name of the team.

The school quickly adopted a resolution stating, 'Its impact perpetuates stereotypes and takes the voice away from Native Americans in our society.'

Up until now, when Natives honor a person with a gift of a blanket, those blankets have usually been a 'Pendleton' made by a non-Native company in Oregon.

Well, there is a new Native challenger in that market. 'Indian Country Today' has a story on a Minnesota Ojibwe woman who is manufacturing a blanket she called 'Renewal,' which features an Ojibwe floral design pattern.

Sarah Agaton Howes of the Fond du Lac Anishinaabe tribe of Minnesota is hoping to start cornering a piece of that lucrative market. She has a website, 'House of Howes' to show off her blankets and other work.

Have you seen the recently released audit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal Housing Program, conducted by the federal HUD folks? Not good.

The report said, the tribe had incorrectly used funds and was not in compliance with other rules. The report reviews years 2013-2015.

Former Principal Chief George Tiger gave a response to a Mvskoke Media inquiry that said the tribe was 'sovereign' and was trying to provide housing to its citizens.

The audit recommends that MCN repay $219,839 to HUD from its non-federal funds, as well as update policies and procedures, and train staff to prevent the deficiencies from re-occurring. When you take money from the feds, you have to play by their rules.

As of this writing, the popular 'Splash Pad' at the Claude Cox Omniplex grounds in Okmulgee is still closed. Problems with drainage and leakage closed down the facility right after the MCN Festival.

Hope they have some luck in getting the builders to fix it. It was extremely popular and the heat of August is on the way.

Catch you in Otowvskuce (September)!

'When you take money from the feds, you have to play by their rules.'

— Gary Fife

Anderson discusses vision for education, training

Citizen happy to return home to work for MCN

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Secretary of Education and Training Greg Anderson was confirmed to his position by the MCN National Council April 16 through TR 16-050, which passed unanimously.

Anderson will oversee 12 programs under the department.

"Right now, we're pretty much going along with the programs that are in place," he said. "You don't want to make wholesale changes in the middle of the process."

Anderson said that each program is being evaluated so that they can become more efficient and effective, and find better ways to serve Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

He explained that the initial goal is to cut down on service complaints and improve current services, while also looking further down the road at adding programs and services.

Anderson said he meets regularly with education and training programs from other tribes including the other four of the Five Civilized Tribes.

"Sometimes, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Sometimes, somebody has a practice in place that may work for you," he said. "I'm certainly not afraid to borrow a good idea and implement it in our department."

Anderson said the Eufaula Dormitory offers an alternative educational environment for youth.

"They bring them to a community like Eufaula, which is a small rural community that has a good public education system and these students have an opportunity to come and maybe go to a school of that size, but also maybe it's a fresh start for them," he said.

One program that the department is evaluating is the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program.

"The foundation is a good concept, a lot of people are doing it. It's still in its infancy… It takes a long time for those programs to develop the financials to support a lot of scholarships," Anderson said. "They're not doing as much as I think they want to."

The Junior Botball Challenge Program that is administered by the department was appropriated $175,938 by the National Council June 16 to continue for another year.

The appropriation passed with an 8-7 vote.

"I think Botball is a great program. It offers an opportunity and it's a special niche program that offers technology development, code writing and things like that, that a lot of young people are interested in and there's a career in that field," Anderson said.

He said he could understand why the vote for support of the program was close.

"I think a lot of that has to do with the state of the financial situation of the tribe," Anderson said. "There's only so much money to go around and they have to be very selective about what they fund and I understand that."

He said he believes all tribal programs and departments will see an effect from budget cuts.

"How we deal with that will be the key," he said. "We have to be selective about how we spend our money. We have to be very frugal."

One area Anderson is encouraging his programs to improve is contact with citizens, especially through social media, technology and the internet.

"We certainly welcome ideas, suggestions. We're always available in our department to visit with citizens if there's any issues," he said. "If there's any challenges that citizens face, we want to hear about them… at the end of the day, that's who we work for."

Anderson said he served the Nation for 30 years as the Eufaula Dormitory superintendent.

He has spent the past two years working for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education in Washington, D.C.

He believes the two years he spent away from the Nation gave him a new view of MCN and its programs, but is happy to return home.

SEVTOTKETV - Tools & Equipment

CVPOF CUKO - Tool Shed
VCCAKV - Ladder
SVTOKUCE - Hammer
VCOPV - Nails
SVFIYETV - Screwdriver
VHOPAKV - Ruler
ESKEFKV - Shovel
ESKORRETV - Posthole Digger
PUCUSWV - Axe
SETECASKV - Rake

V S E A V C C A K V K K S V U S C K
S O E S K O R R E T U P V E V O V V
V E S V C V P O F C U U F O P C E E
O K E H O V K C U V U C I I S S C O
E V T O V C V E K O Y U Y C U P S O
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S E A K E K C V V F S V F I Y E T V
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K O P K O A K R V F P U V H E V E V

Audit

Continued from page 1

2010. In 2014, MCN allowed the participant to transfer the home to his nephew in 2014, whose income exceeded the median income.

The report states that this action occurred because the Nation waived its requirements.

'Since it did not obtain HUD's approval for this transfer, the $120,581 Indian Housing Block Grant funds spent on the property were ineligible,' the report states.

Mvskoke Media reached out to former Principal Chief George Tiger regarding the use of waivers since the years reviewed were during his administration.

Tiger said that MCN is a self-governance tribe that takes care of its own people and makes decisions accordingly.

"On the waivers, I know that even the Council at one time questioned whether or not it didn't come through them. That's an executive process itself and our deal was to provide housing to people that needed it.

"And it was on a case-by-case situation and so yes, waivers were signed off on. But from my understanding, even with this new administration there's been some waivers signed off on as well," Tiger said.

The version of MCN Code Annotated Title 24, Section 2-102 (C) available on the MCN Supreme Court website discusses the Housing operating policy and procedures.

'The Housing Division shall adopt housing program operating policies and housing program admissions policies, which shall not be effective until approved by the Principal Chief and the National Council,' the Code states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states that the policy will be updated.

The Nation disagrees that $120,581 needs to be repaid for this specific finding.

'All federal guidelines were followed when the home was acquired and it remained low income for the period 6/1/2010 to 03/31/2014. Because the home remained low income for a period of almost four years we believe a prorated amount is repaid,' the Nation's statement reads.

OIG documents responses back to MCN and HUD regarding the Nation's statements.

In the audit, OIG's response requests documentation that policies and procedures have been updated.

The response also states that HUD will need to make a decision on the repayment of funds.

'While the Nation's position may be reasonable, HUD will need to decide whether proration of the $120,581 that the Nation spent on the home is acceptable to address the deficiency,' the response states.

Findings: Improper rent charged to non-low-income family

The audit found that the Nation did not require a non-low-income family to pay the correct amount of rent as calculated using HUD regulations and instead, charged the participant $350 per month.

'This occurred because the Nation's payments and rents policy did not comply with Federal requirements, which resulted in collecting $13,878 less in rent than was due from the family,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states that non-low income participants are being notified that rent will be calculated according to HUD regulations.

The response also states MCN is updating their policy regarding this finding.

The Nation states it disagrees that $13,878 needs to be repaid for the specific finding.

'The home will be repaid out of non-federal funds. Therefore the home is not subject to any Federal requirements so uncollected rents do not apply,' the statement reads.

OIG's response requests documentation that policies and procedures have been updated.

OIG maintains that the $13,878 will need to be repaid.

'The Nation used program funds to purchase and repair the home, which was subject to 24 CFR 1000.110, and should have collected the rents in accordance with the requirements,' the response reads.

Findings: No action regarding a participant who did not recertify

The audit found that the Nation did not take action when a participant did not recertify, verifying their current employment and family composition, and the Nation also could not verify if the participant was in fact living in the home.

'This condition occurred because the Nation's housing management department did not have procedures for following up on participants that did not recertify,' the report states.



The lease agreement reviewed did not require the participant to use the home as a primary residence. The report states that recertification is required in order to charge the proper amount of rent.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states the participant has recertified and that staff will receive training on the recertification process.

The Nation states the lease agreement has been updated to include that the home must be used as a primary residence.

OIG's response requests documentation that polices and procedures have been updated, as well as a copy of the updated lease agreement.

OIG states that the recertification documentation provided for the file is insufficient.

'…it did not provide the necessary documents to address whether the participant entered into a corrective action plan to provide income and occupancy information for 2014 and 2015.

'In addition, it did not provide information on whether the participant owed the Nation for unreported income or reduced family composition. The Nation will need to provide supporting documentation to HUD to close the recommendation.'

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said in an interview with Mvskoke Media that programs which require recertification affect approximately 60 participants. He said a letter has been sent to these participants explaining the process.

Tiger said that a $350 maximum in rent payments has been in existence for a number of years.

"I do know that I received a lot of calls when there was a letter that was sent out increasing everyone's or the possibility of everyone's payments," he said. "Well, I also know that that would probably in essence would affect about a little over 100 people that could probably afford the increase and probably need to have an increase in their payments, but not every participant should've received that letter."

Floyd explained that the first participant who came in for their recertification received a decrease in their rent payment.

"So it doesn't mean that when you come in to Housing and show us your financial situation, that you're automatically going to get an increase," he said.

Floyd said Housing is working with HUD to see if they can phase in changes over time.

"But our Housing Department has told me this affects approximately 60 people, not hundreds. So I think the illusion is these are hundreds, that everybody's rents going to get increased when actuality, it's about 60 people… The outcome is, we will be compliant.

"The objective is that we'll be 100 percent compliant, but on the ground with the families, we know that it's going to be a financial impact and we want to ease that burden as much as possible. And hopefully HUD understands that and can be sensitive to that," Floyd said.

Findings: Manager allowed to continue in conflict of interest situation.

The report found that a former manager was allowed to manage her brother's file, and did not disclose or recuse herself from the situation.

The manager allowed violations to the agreement, including the number of people occupying the home and not including an occupants' income.

The report states that MCN did not notify HUD of the situation.

'Because the former manager managed her brother's agreement with the Nation, she retained benefits for her family, including herself,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states the procedures have been updated to require personnel to recuse themselves from managing a family member's file.

'All counselors have read and signed the conflict of interest statement,' the statement reads.

OIG's response requests documentation that it has relinquished the participant's rights as a potential homebuyer, or added the participant's income and recalculate the rent payment and the amount owed by the participant.

Findings: Documentation not provided that contracts were reasonable

The audit found that documentation was not provided to support that four of its contracts were fair and reasonable, ranging from 33-79 percent greater than the Nation's independent cost estimates.

'Therefore, the Nation spent $47,225 for unsupported construction costs,' the report states.

The report states MCN should have performed additional price analysis and included supporting documentation to explain the contract prices versus the estimated costs.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states that the Nation disagrees with this finding, and that each file includes supporting documentation for contract approval.

'We believe we have complied with all the requirements of 85.369(f)(1) because an independent cost estimate was performed, an adequate number of comparable bids were received, which we believe to be fair and reasonable, and it compares with previous bids received for the same service, therefore repayment of costs exceeding the independent cost estimate should not be repaid,' the statement reads.

OIG's response states that it disagrees with the Nation's statement.

'When bids are significantly greater (30 percent or more in this instance) than the independent cost estimates, the bids do not appear reasonable or assumptions used for the independent cost estimates seem incorrect,' the response reads.

OIG requests documenta-

Audit - 6

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.
CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
• ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
• CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
• ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
• VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
• ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
• SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)
Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...
AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.
If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

Audit

Continued from page 5

tion supporting the contract amounts.

Findings: Procurement files were incomplete

Files reviewed by the auditors did not include information regarding the bidding process, procurement methods and cost estimates.

Documents were found by MCN staff outside of the files, but the Nation could not located price quotations for a $38,155 contract.

HUD requires documents be kept for at least three years, and requires records to support appropriate expenditures of federal funds.

'However, the Nation did not maintain the integrity of its contract files because it lacked a comprehensive system to ensure contract file completeness and proper ordering of file contents,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states the Nation disagrees with this finding.

The Nation states that the missing documents were in the file auditors reviewed in 2015 and audit findings did not document them as missing.

'We are unsure how a complete section became missing from the contract file, but we believe when the files were taken apart to be scanned by the HUD OIG auditor the complete procurement section was misfiled. We are still in the process of going through all of the tenant and contract files that were selected for review to see if we can locate the missing section,' the statement reads.

The Nation also states it should not be required to repay $38,155 due to this, 'single incident of human error.'

OIG's response requests supporting documentation for the contract.

Findings: Contracts omitted mandatory clauses

Contracts approved by MCN omitted clauses required by federal regulations.

'This condition occurred because the Nation's contract management procedures did not include steps to ensure that its contracts included required clauses that would protect the rights of the Nation and ensure compliance with Federal laws,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states the clause has now been added to the contracts.

OIG's response states that a retention clause was left out of the submitted documentation and must be added.

Findings: Insufficient income information for participant

The audit found that the Nation approved a participant that had not completed an unemployment statement before the lease was granted.

The checklist in the file stated that the document was requested by MCN, but did not receive it.

'This condition occurred because the Nation did not have procedures in place to conduct and document income verifications,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states an audit checklist has been implemented and the participant has provided a signed unemployment statement.

OIG's response requests supporting documentation of the correction.



MNN File Photo

Findings: No documentation regarding required inspections

For two of the seven leases reviewed, the auditors found that the Nation did not provide signed documentation on required move-in inspections.

'Because of these errors, the Nation could not support that it used Indian Housing Block Grant funds to provide two homes that were decent, safe, and sanitary,' the report states.

MCN's response to the finding included in the report states the Nation has implemented procedures to correct this issue.

OIG's response requests documentation of updated policies and procedures.

What now?

Tiger said he had vaguely read through the report, and found it ironic that some of the findings called into question policies that had been in place for 20 years and were never questioned before.

He also said that the findings are a negotiating tool.

"If it's a finding that there's some recommendations that can be negotiated out and how it can be addressed and how it can be taken care of. As far as I saw, there was really no major, major issues," Tiger said. "The $200,000 the tribe has to pay back, in essence eventually the participant in question is going to be paying that back at some point in time. So that money will be recouped."

He said he believes the findings are being politicized.

"It's unfortunate that to some degree that a lot of things that are being questioned and these things again can be worked out are being politicized to a large degree," Tiger said. "And I don't think that's who we are as Muscogee (Creek) people."

Floyd said that during the process of the audit, they were working on updating processes and procedures. He believes Housing has addressed all but one of those items.

"We do have to respond. We do have to comply and so we made sure we started that early," he said. "So as of even last month, there's some things that we're putting in place. So I think that if they were to come back today, they would be pleased with what they saw."

Floyd said he feels positive about the direction Housing is heading.

"There's still a lot of work to do in Housing because Housing as a program is a very wide program," he said. "They have a lot of offerings and it isn't just a singular program of either rent or build for our citizens."

Floyd said his goal is to help citizens understand the Housing programs and process as well.

"So if we can do that, I think we begin to clear a lot of the complexities or the vagueness that many feel they get from Housing because then they will know where they stand, what type of program and what the expectation is of when they can be served," he said.

Mvskoke Media contacted HUD to verify the process now that the audit is complete.

'Once the OIG issues the audit report to the HUD program area, the program issues a Management Decision within 120 days of the date of the audit. This Management Decision, which is established in collaboration with the grantee, details all actions that will be taken to correct the deficiencies outlined in the OIG report.

'All actions must be completed within one year of the management decision; and three years for repayment of all disallowed costs. There are instances when, due to particular circumstances, these timelines may be different,' HUD Region VI Public Affairs Officer Patricia Campbell said in a written response.

The statement said that HUD works with audited parties to gather documentation and review the report, and that HUD can make its own recommendations.

HUD's preference is for the funds to be repaid as soon as possible or within one year, but sometimes repayment can take up to three years.

HUD declined to make any comment regarding MCN's specific audit.

Midpoint

Continued from page 1

serve the entire community, Native and non-Native.

Manhattan/RedStone representative Larry Rooney said the 150 people working on the site will be ramped up to 200-300, with the hopes of completing construction around the first part of 2017.

He said after 16 months of work on the site, they are currently putting in exterior walls and windows, and beginning on interior walls, drywall and electrical work.



Jessica McBride/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a midpoint celebration ceremony for construction of the MCN Community Hospital July 20 in Okemah, Okla.

"So it's really picking up a lot of momentum right now," Rooney said.

Floyd said MCN is hoping to be able to move in the equipment and programs in phases after construction is complete and be able to open the full facility in spring 2017.

Rooney said the facility will have a characteristically different design.

"It's also going to have some very unique features. I mentioned about the rammed earth walls, which is unique construction to Oklahoma," he said. "It's used a lot in New Mexico and Arizona. But it's actually taking dirt and compacting it into different striated layers."



Jessica McBride/MNN

Manhattan/RedStone representative Larry Rooney (not pictured) said that the design of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Hospital will be unique by including a rammed earth wall (pictured) used in construction in New Mexico and Arizona.

The striations will be visible on parts of the outer walls of the facility.

A National Council extraordinary session was held March 21, to discuss and address a reported MCN Department of Health budget deficit. Council passed legislation to address the reported deficit by obtaining a $65.68 million loan.

Floyd said though the Nation has faced some financial obstacles with the status of the health department's finances, he does not see it as detrimental to the project.

"What I would like to do is see us begin to have discussions with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to see if maybe jointly we can put in an intersection there so that there'd be on and off ramps at that site so that we have two access points into this facility," Floyd said.

He said the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs energy program approached MCN about a possible solar energy grant for the facility.

"That will cut down on our utility cost for the future… we will know probably in September about that grant," Floyd said.

He said that when the facility opens, it will also have some of the latest technology available for patients.

NCA 16-108 passed the Council's Health, Education and Welfare Committee July 11, requesting $5.2 million in funds for furniture, fixtures and equipment for MCNCH.

The measure was set to go before full Council for review July 30 during the quarterly session.

Citizen returns home and starts business

Herrod and family make decision 'out of the blue'

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — There are people who say that they can go all over the world but nothing feels better than being home. This is the case with Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kristopher Herrod.

"I grew up here," Kristopher said. "This has always been home."

He graduated from Shawnee High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1991.

Kristopher explained why he wanted to join the Marines.

"I wanted to defend our land, our country," Kristopher said. "My father, Randy Herrod was also in the Marines. A lot of my relatives was in some type of services."

He was honorably discharged in 1995 as an E-4 corporal and did a year in Oklahoma City with the reserves in 1996.

Kristopher said he and his wife Kaliko Lehua Herrod, who was in the U.S. Navy, moved around until they ended up in Virginia working for the U.S. Department of Defense.

After a while, he said they both felt a need to come back to his home in Oklahoma.

"Something drew us back here," Kristopher said. "It was out of the blue on our decision."

Upon returning, they started a business called Mvskoke Home Repair & Construction LLC.

"She's the boss," laughs Kristopher. "She gets everything in order for this business."

Why this type of business?

"I have been doing something with repairs and construction for as long as I can remember," Kristopher said. "So I wanted to stick to what I am good at."

Kristopher said he also wanted to help local residents through his business.

"Coming back home, it looked like nothing has changed here, so I want to do everything I can to help our people that live here in the southern part of Creek Nation," Kristopher said.

Kristopher has his son Koda Hatley helping with the work to teach him what he knows.

"It is good working with my dad," Hatley said. "There are some things that I know but he is teaching me a lot to where if he needed to do something else, he can trust me to handle another thing alone if I had to."

Kristopher said they offer a little of everything, from carpentry, drywall and painting to plumbing and lawn care.

"Nothing is beneath me," Kristopher said. "I will get a shovel and dig a hole if that is what you want or need."

He had a final thought to share with citizens in the southern portion of the tribal jurisdiction.

"South of I-40, I am here to help you," Kristopher said. "I want to do what I can to help our citizens."

For more information, contact: Kristopher at: 405-446-0628.

Citizen first Native in sports medicine minority program



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jamie Clark (bottom in blue) with her volleyball club team Oklahoma Charge 16 Under Armour after they won the Silverheart Challenge tournament held in Kansas City, Kan.

Clark aims to shift focus towards tribal fitness through influential organization

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jamie Clark is the first Native American to be accepted into the American College of Sports Medicine Leadership and Diversity Training Program.

"They are kind of a national leader in relaying information out to the public with regards to guidelines," Clark said. "They do a lot of work for the government, for these exercise and physical activity guidelines. That typically comes from the organization, ACSM."

She shared more about the leadership program.

"What they do is they take applications from minority students and once you're accepted into the program, it really kind of becomes a grooming program to help you reach the highest levels of leadership in the organization," she said.

Although Clark is new to the program, she already has her eye on recruiting other Native Americans with the hope of benefitting Indian Country at large.

"…Just trying to get more people that are already in ACSM and already in the membership that are students and professors, trying to find more Natives and get them involved in leadership roles on the national level," she said.

While she has already made progress towards this mission, Clark also hopes to build a base at Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"Once I feel like I can get a network established and people understand what I want to do and how I can help, then from that point on, we can really grow and grow our ideas and grow our research and start to make a bigger impact on the tribe and for the tribe," she said.

Clark grew up in Edmond, outside the tribal jurisdiction but hopes to help her daughter learn about the culture just as her grandmother did for her as a child.

"She taught me Creek when I was younger and she talked to me a lot about her experience and what it meant to be Native to her," she said. "And I felt like that was my education, was just within my family unit up until I started to get older and get into college and get more involved with Native American student organizations and things like that."

She has two classes to complete before starting her dissertation towards a Ph.D. in health and human performance from Oklahoma State University.

"So for my dissertation, I'm actually going to be studying sport issues a little more closely," Clark said. "I'm looking at athlete burnout and what causes athlete burnout."

She said this study will focus on specific groups such as different sports, male versus female and Division I versus Division II collegiate organizations.

"With the ACSM, I will be doing more minority-based research and just understanding differences in how we can get minorities more involved in sports," Clark said. "And what are some issues that maybe keep minorities from getting involved in sports that aren't necessarily applicable to the rest of the population."

Clark said a lot of progress has been made in Indian Country through diabetes prevention programs and shared what she would focus on in her efforts at MCN.

"What does physical exercise and activity mean for Mvskoke?...What is happening physically in our tribes and how can we make it work better for our tribe? How can we incentivize and promote physical activity and better health with our bodies?" she said.

Clark asked that anyone at MCN who wants to collaborate on promoting ideas, programs or research email her at: jclark10@uco.edu.



Facebook
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rosalie DePaola recently completed her undergraduate degree as a pre-med student at Notre Dame. This summer, DePaola visited her grandmother Dorris Lasley in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction where she learned about her Native heritage and shadowed at the Okemah Indian Health Center.

Citizen graduates Notre Dame, shadows at Okemah clinic

DePaola visits grandmother, learns about heritage

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) pre-med student Rosalie DePaola got an education about her tribal heritage this summer between completing her undergraduate degree at Notre Dame and starting her master's program.

"My daughter came and she has six children and they all came and Rosalie is the oldest…They were here for the Festival.

"So that's really one of the highlights of the visit here and then they got to go to my mom's farm, which is like original allottee land out here east of Morris," DePaola's grandmother Dorris Lasley said.

DePaola stayed a few days after the rest of her family left to shadow at the Okemah Indian Health Center.

"It was definitely different than everything I've seen here," she said. "Because I've shadowed a lot of surgeons and people who come in that like with specific things that need to get fixed and it seemed like just in Okemah, there was a lot of like, just general poor health that I haven't really seen much of."

DePaola said she is interested in a scholarship arrangement with the Indian Health Service that would help her pay for school in exchange for working a set period with IHS upon completion of her program.

DePaola said that if she meets any income guidelines for the IHS scholarship, her hope is to work for a Muscogee (Creek) Nation facility.

She shared what she learned about Native health at the clinic.

"Diabetes is definitely a huge issue," DePaola said. "I've heard that before but I've never really seen how prevalent it was until I came and shadowed."

While DePaola furthered her schooling at the clinic, she shared her thought that informing patients might also be the best way to address this health issue.

"So it's this whole education process," she said. "I never really thought about how it's something you really have to manage," she said. "It's just very difficult when you're focused on so many other things in your life."

Lasley said she is proud of all her grandchildren's accomplishments including DePaola's, and the fact that she is continuing a family legacy in her career choice.

"I'm a nurse. So I hope somewhere along the line she was inspired by my profession," she said. "I'm very proud that she's going into the medical field, only going farther than I did because she's planning on being a physician."

DePaola said Lasley has made an impression on her through cultural education.

"I didn't realize how much I didn't know until I came and actually experienced it myself," DePaola said. "So I was asking my grandma, since I've been at Notre Dame, more about her experiences being Native American and how she grew up but it's totally different when you go and see what everything is like."

DePaola has reflected this interest during her time in college, as she is president of the Native American Student Association at Notre Dame.

"I don't think that any of us in the club are from the same tribe but we all have the same kind of understanding of our heritage, but with different aspects of it," she said.

DePaola's long-term goal is to stay in the Northeast where she is from.

However, she is looking forward to talking about her visit with the other NASA members when school starts again at Notre Dame.

"When I go back that will be something cool I can share with them," she said.



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chance Lamho was recognized as one of the 2016 Students of Excellence by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

Lamho compares teammates to family

Citizen recognized in athletics, academics

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As a sophomore at East Central High School in Tulsa, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chance Lamho formed a brotherhood bond with his teammates when he joined the football team.

"Being one of the youngest ones on the team, they took me under their wing and made me feel welcome as a family and that really stuck with me," he said.

Lamho carried those memories with him as he became a leader on the team and pushed the younger teammates to be better.

"Everyone can be better than what they think they are," he said. "I wanted to get the mental block out of the way… the only thing that's stopping you is you."

He served as team captain for his senior year.

Lamho said he still maintains the friendships he has cultivated even though they have graduated.

He graduated with a 3.7 GPA and took six advanced placement courses his senior year.

> **"Go beyond the wall… do what you want to do that will make you happy."**
>
> **— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Chance Lamho**

"It was a struggle, but I got through it," Lamho said.

Lamho was a varsity starter for all three years he played football, varsity wrestler for four years, as well as the wrestling team captain.

"Taking advanced classes and being able to play sports, I thought that was an accomplishment to me personally," Lamho said.

Lamho was one of seven graduating seniors recognized as Students of Excellence by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

"I didn't think I was any more special than any other kid that was typically taking the same classes as me. When I got told that I was surprised I was selected," he said.

He plans to major in mechanical engineering at the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.

Lamho said he chose the university because of its small class sizes.

After researching various engineering fields, Lamho felt that the mechanical aspect was where he would focus.

"I've really enjoyed math and science, and I've talked to counselors and my teachers and they said engineering's your best way to go," Lamho said.

Lamho said eventually he would like to have a successful career, a family and children.

"Just live a happy and peaceful life," he said.

Lamho's advice included pushing through barriers and toward your life's goal.

"Go beyond the wall… do what you want to do that will make you happy," he said.

He is the son of Chilton and Jennifer Lamho.

Scott describes his busy high school days



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Thomas Scott was recognized as one of the 2016 Students of Excellence by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

Citizen envisions life goals

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Thomas Scott reminisced on one of his favorite memories from attending Edison Preparatory School in Tulsa.

Scott was trekking from football practice to musical rehearsal his sophomore year when he was asked by the student activities coordinator to read the daily school announcements.

While there, he also served as junior and senior class treasurer and was heavily involved in student council.

"They tell you, you're not going to be experiencing senior year, you're giving the experience of senior year," he said.

Scott said he spent his time planning events for fellow classmates.

"Basically, they tell us that we're going to be helping others enjoy it and we won't necessarily be the first ones having all the fun," Scott said. "But we'll still enjoy it anyways because we're getting to do all the work that we love."

While playing football and performing in theatre, Scott also took 10 advanced placement courses and tied for the fourth highest GPA in his class.

He became an Eagle Scout last year.

Scott will attend the University of Arkansas in the fall, majoring in economics. His career goal is to become a business analyst.

He said discipline is the most valuable thing he learned in high school.

Scott feels his family and friends are a huge part of his every day life.

In his spare time, he plays flag football on Sundays to keep himself in shape.

Scott said his Native American heritage makes him unique.

"It's also like during all of the tribal involvement stuff, that helps too. Just, you have so many people supporting you and pushing you on and a big part of that really through high school was Lillian Williams," he said.

Scott said he is proud to be Muscogee (Creek).

"How we've kept our traditions through everything that the tribe has been through," Scott said.

His goal is to one day repay those who have guided him.

"I would like to give back to everyone that's given to me and helped me along the way," he said.

Scott is a member of the Alligator Clan. He is the son of Tom and Rena Scott.

Barnett graduates as valedictorian



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Anthony Barnett was recognized as one of the 2016 Students of Excellence by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

Citizen to attend Princeton

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For three years, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Anthony Barnett spent his summers running three to five miles a day with his cross-country teammates.

"Practicing like every day, even through the summer in like 90 degree heat, you really form a bond with your other teammates," he said.

He served as the team captain his senior year and also part of the varsity wrestling team.

Barnett was the 2016 valedictorian of Will Rogers High School, maintaining above a 4.0 GPA for his high school career and is he also Gates Millennium Scholar.

"I just try to stay busy and try to do that along with school work, which I've tried to stay up on throughout my high school career," he said.

Barnett was also selected as one of the 2016 Students of Excellence by the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission.

When he was not at school, practice or catching up on homework, Barnett volunteered at the food bank and nursing homes.

In the fall, he will go off to Princeton University to major in mechanical engineering. Barnett said he wants to attend a good liberal arts college.

"I'm really interest in engineering, but I'm really interested in all sorts of things like history and everything," he said. "So Princeton would really give me a good engineering education and it's a good liberal arts college too."

Eventually, Barnett hopes to return to Oklahoma, possibly after he earns master's and doctorate degrees.

"I really just want to get a good education right now. I really want to help people, that's what I want to do. And in college I hope to work with like organizations like Engineering without Borders and stuff like that.

"But honestly, I don't really know what I want to do yet. I don't know what I want to accomplish. I just want to be happy and make others happy," Barnett said.

He said his great-grandparents taught him to be proud to be Native American.

"They've passed on now, but I think back to them and I know they'd be proud of me," Barnet said. "And there's not really many Native Americans that go on to STEM careers and I'm ready to make my family proud."

He encouraged other high school students to set their goals high.

"Just set them as high as you can, even if you think it's out of reach because that will help you stay focused in high school as far as extra curriculars, as far as academics, as far as everything," Barnett said. "That's what I've tried to do."

He is the son of Delores and Richard Barnett.

Reporter job open at Mvskoke Media

Mvskoke Media/*Release*

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Receives assignment or evaluates news leads and news tips to develop story ideas. Gathers and verifies factual information regarding story lead through interviews, observation and research.

Organizes material, determines slant or emphasis and writes story according to prescribed editorial style and format standards.

Edits or assists in editing for publications of the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Assists editor with news stories and updates for the newspaper by establishing Mvskoke Media with all entities of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree from a four-year college or five years of experience in newspaper production.

Writes clearly, concisely and informatively. Edits work for spelling, grammar and Associated Press style. Presents numerical data clearly and accurately. Is able to read and interpret written information.

An individual should have a basic knowledge of or a base knowledge to learn Macintosh computers and the Mac operating system, Google platforms, mobile OSs, Acrobat, WordPress, InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Preference for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and then citizens of federally recognized tribes.

Contact

For initial information: 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com or 918-732-7697.



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Oklahoma Secretary of State and Native American Liaison Chris Benge (left) talked about Native policy and affairs July 20 on 'Mvskoke Radio' with host Gary Fife (right) at the KOKL studio in Okmulgee.

AFFAIRS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with state tribes.

MR: We wanted to know the activities you've been involved with. Sometimes, these positions can be 'elevated' so high that they don't touch the ground and this is where Native people will want to know what you're up to. In that light, maybe you can give us an overview of some of the activities you and Mr. Hendrix (Deputy Assistant of Native Affairs, Brian Hendrix) have been involved with.

CB: I guess I would start by saying, and this is in the annual report that we've submitted to view, we're entitled to file at the end of the calendar year, in this case it was the 2015 report. We were proud to say that we counted 147 different actions with tribes. I would hazard a guess that we undercounted that a little bit.

I feel like that was significant and it was a variety of things. It was some stomp-dances and it was State of the Nation speeches or just informal meetings with tribal leaders and their team.

One of the first meetings that I took after getting this position was with the Sac and Fox team there in the Stroud area. Sac and Fox was not a Nation that I didn't know a whole lot about so I went and met with the chief at the time and his leadership team and we just had a really good interaction.

But it's been a variety of those kinds of meetings. Even more formal where Brian Hendrix, my deputy, he's chairing a working group, the Southern Plains Child Protection team. It takes him to the southwestern part of the state to talk about child protection issues.

Embedded in that is the quarterly interaction that I have with our (state agency) tribal liaisons. You'll see that in the report as well, so we interact quarterly with them. We meet to discuss what we're seeing in Indian Country and what kind of programs and projects they're working on.

We have at the table, someone who is representing the departments of Mental Health, from DHS (Department of Human Services), from the Health Care Authority, from the Health Department, from the Department of Transportation, from Veterans Affairs, from the Office of Juvenile Affairs and we are working to add someone from Commerce to sit with us.

So, we have representation from all these different areas of state government. Really, our goal is to just help tribes and help them with their issues and interact and build relationships and just try to help each other. That's the bulk of our activity that you would see from this last calendar year, 2015.

MR: Have you had the opportunity to meet with our Principal Chief, Mr. Floyd? What was that meeting about?

CB: Well, the couple of times that I've met with him were at the Inter-Tribal Council, the five big tribes. They meet once a quarter, so some of those meetings were within the Inter-Tribal Council settings. We've had an initial 'get-to-know-you' meeting with him and Governor Fallin not long ago. He came down and met with her.

Our discussion usually revolves around a lot of health care, which would make sense considering the chief's background and really considering how important health care is to Indian Country. We talked a lot about health care and how to work to improve the health care system in the tribes.

MR: While we're on that subject, our own health department is undergoing a struggle with its budget and a massive deficit it had to deal with, were there any specific proposals kicked around about that subject.

CB: I don't recall that specific subject coming up. But, we talked about the Okemah hospital or health facility, I guess it's called, but that's coming out of the ground and will be completed soon, a little bit about the Okmulgee Hospital. Just trying to inform us on what their focus is. Of course, being able to deliver health services to the citizens of the Creek Nation, I can tell you they were very paramount to the chief. It was very apparent.

MR: As we looked at your report, I was very impressed with the amount of material that was there. It answered a lot of questions that I had on my list. We saw names, we saw departmental connections, we saw people who we could actually call up if we had to or arrange a meeting or something like that.

I saw that as a wonderful step taken by the state to provide that information to not leave us in the dark about so many things. I thought it was refreshing. What was the initiative behind that?

CB: It's probably borne out of my philosophy on governing. When I was speaker of the house, I tried to empower people around me, finding good, qualified, talented people and using their strengths.

So, I approached the report the same way. I realized that this tribal liaison group existed. I wasn't sure how active they had been but I knew that they brought great value to the table.

I wanted to interact with them and I wanted to know what they were working on.

When it came time to do the report, we de-centralized the process where I asked each of the liaisons to give us a summary of what you've done over the last year. As well, add the contact information and a picture of each of the liaisons so people would know how to contact them and see a face.

We have a couple of them who are very, very active tribal members themselves.

MR: We have been looking to see if there have been any announcements coming out of your office and it's been a little quiet. That doesn't mean there wasn't anything happening but we just didn't see it.

So, have there been any projects or legislative initiatives that have come out of this relationship with the folks there?

CB: Legislative initiatives—we haven't had anything come out of the office, so to speak. I do think that we have monitored the legislation that's filed by other legislators that deal with tribes. We're always there to engage if we need to in one way or another.

I can use a couple of examples, the Indian arts bill, which you mentioned you wanted to discuss at some point. The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes supported that and they contacted us and asked us if we were aware of that and do whatever we can to help spur that along. Of course, when it came to the governor's desk, I had expressed to her that there was support for it from the Five Civilized Tribes. So, that was ultimately signed into law.

The other one that was actually more of a—put us in a defensive mode was this bill that would have affected gaming. The fantasy sports bill—that was very concerning to all the tribes. They came to us and asked us to intervene and we did. We discussed with the legislators the sensitivity that the tribes had about that. Also, we even mentioned there's a real possibility that the 'exclusivity fees' from the gaming agreement would be affected tremendously. That's education funding.

So, we got engaged that way on behalf of the tribes on these particular legislative measures. But, I can't say anything has been initiated out of the office on a legislative policy initiative. It's probably become more of a 'connecting the dots'. When I sit back and look at what our duties have evolved into, it's a lot of 'connecting the dots' and a lot of encouragement.

> **"There was a bill to have the senate confirm all compacts in the future. As you can imagine, that was very problematic from the tribal perspective and ended up not getting through the legislature. But, that's an example of where I think there's still, maybe, a mindset there that's still not as positive as you'd like for it to be."**
>
> **— Oklahoma Secretary of State and Native American Liaison Chris Benge**

I have really stuck to a couple of talking points as I get out and about and that's 'Collaboration and Respect.' So, I want to show respect for tribal communities and their history and their culture. Too, try to find ways to collaborate and that has really brought us down the road of talking a lot about health care, talking a lot about education, talking a lot about job development and now, veterans issues and transportation issues.

A lot of those things surfaced as far as what we end up initiating in an action item form.

MR: Would there be any of those 'action items' on the horizon?

CB: I think at this point, we're searching for ways to collaborate, work together. I don't have a legislative initiative to bring to the table, other than to communicate with other legislators, tribal and non-tribal.

MR: How would you describe that relationship with the legislature? Oklahoma is famous for being quite conservative and in the past, there were legislators who weren't really up to speed on the relationship between Native Americans and the federal government. The education system just doesn't teach that. Are they asking more questions? Are they coming to you with more ideas? Is there any hostility remaining in that discussion?

CB: You know, I think that the best way to answer that is, about 10 years ago, a Native American caucus was started. I have to give a lot of credit to Representative Lisa Billy (R-District 42) who had the idea of starting that caucus. That caucus has grown over time to where you had several legislators who were in the Native American caucus.

What they did programwise, is they met once a month during session so that real issues that had surfaced related to Native Americans was discussed in those meetings.

I think that has gone a long way to educating the legislature at large about Native issues. I think that the one thing that I don't think anybody can ignore that has also helped the legislature, is to see the growth and the economic impact of the tribes. I think that has helped with the education process and it has helped with better understandings. I'm sure there is still a lot of work to do. I'm not trying to sugarcoat all that.

There was a bill to have the senate confirm all compacts in the future. As you can imagine, that was very problematic from the tribal perspective and ended up not getting through the legislature. But, that's an example of where I think there's still, maybe, a mindset there that's still not as positive as you'd like for it to be.

MR: I would agree. There's been quite a lot of progress there. One of the tools, I presume would be education. Do you see anything from where you're at to assist in this progress in the teaching of more of Native people as participants in the history of Oklahoma's development?

CB: There's a group called the Indian Education Advisory Group. It's led by Dwight Pickering (Oklahoma Director of American Indian Education.) This Indian education advisory groups' charge is to advise on how to mesh or improve Indian education and it has a cultural basis to it.

That's the entity where I would see those kind of issues being discussed. How do you approach that, how do you insert it, how do you bring it to the table where it's discussed objectively and all sensitivities are treated with respect?

One thing that I'd like to add to that is, you're talking about institutional and societal movement and change. That's a slow process by its nature because you're talking about moving thousands, if not millions of thoughts, you

Affairs - 10

Affairs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

know, the way people have thought for a long, long time. So that's a slow move by its nature.

MR: Do you see some growth and change in that attitude of non-Native folks towards the states' Native people?

CB: Oh, definitely. I probably won't do it justice by bringing it up here today. But, the first thing I experienced firsthand, the Tulsa Chamber (of Commerce) reached out to the Creek, Cherokee and Osage to be partners with them on their economic development programs and their tourism program as well.

So, for example, when they had the Bassmasters Fishing Tournament at Grand Lake in 2013, the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau recruited the fishing tournament. Well, in the case of the 2013 Bassmasters, the Cherokee Nation HardRock (Casino) got a lot of visibility and got some good exposure in return.

What I saw, in this case, that non-Native chamber learned a lot about Native issues and their priorities by just that partnership. Another example would be the Macy's Distribution Center that the Cherokee was again partnered with the Tulsa Chamber, City of Owasso and the City of Tulsa. I went to the ribbon cutting of that and the Native presence was phenomenal. The CEO of Macy's, he spoke with great pride about this partnership with the tribe.

With that, I think you're seeing the non-Natives growing in their appreciation for the heritage and trying to deal with the history as best as we can and that's a challenge.

MR: So far, we've been talking about things coming out of the state to the tribes. What have you been hearing from the tribes, what's on their minds?

CB: When I get out and about those conversations turned to a lot of health care and a lot of education issues. Number one, they want to be respected and they want us to acknowledge and appreciate the culture. We've tried really hard to do that when we're out and about.

I guess we've had conversations about the federal government. That comes up on a regular basis. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, I've found out is not the most popular organization in tribal circles.

We listen. Some of those things we can affect, some of them we can't. Here's what's interesting to me. You find that people are people and when you get right down to it, we all have the same basic desires and needs.

We want to be able to educate our kids. We want to be able to provide for our families. We want to be able to live healthy lives. It seems like that dominates most of our conversations.

I know child welfare is huge, so we interact on that front a lot. Brian Hendrix, one of the reasons I hired him is that he had a lot of background in those areas, child welfare and victim services that he worked when he was with the district attorney's council.

So, you hear those kinds of things from the tribes. The other one I wanted to mention, I think that this is one that has been really interesting to me, is the reintegration programs. I know that the Creeks seem to be on the forefront in a lot of ways with that. That is one that I want to learn more about.

As you are probably aware, the State of Oklahoma is focusing on criminal justice reform. The governor made it a huge priority in her second inaugural in 2014 and the State of the State also with some actual proposals to look at.

In essence, what we're focusing on is, we can't continue this 'tough on crime' position and stance that we've had because our cost to incarcerate is increasing. We're growing that population and keeping them in longer. Then some would argue that we're really not doing them any good while they're in the system.

So, I'm really interested in learning more about the reintegration programs. I know the Native people had this approach for a long, long time, probably a lot longer than the state. So, that's one that I hear about and I think it's something that I think we need to be focused on as we go forward.

MR: We mentioned child welfare. Now, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Interior (Department) have handed down some new rules designed to toughen the standards and make sure the placement of Indian children a priority under the appropriate law there and also, and to do tougher background checks.

With the large numbers of Native American kids that are in state custody, will your office be looking at that issue? Is there something there that you're going to be developing?

CB: Well, it has to be a priority. There has to be an awareness to Native Americans. That's something that's hit me and I've learned as I've taken on this role. Brian Hendrix knows much more about it and always stresses that maybe, this is the most sensitive area for Native people.

So, our desire, wherever we're able to affect that would be to honor the Indian Child Welfare Act, the government should honor that. There ought to be an intentional effort to find Native families for Native children who need placement and try to honor the spirit and the letter of that particular law.

I know the past and the history has not always been so good in that arena. It's one that we ought to commit ourselves to do better in whatever way that is.

I think that one example of where we've taken some action is the governor's foster care initiative. She announced last fall that she wanted to recruit 1000 foster families in Oklahoma. We've seen our foster care numbers explode. It's almost doubled in just a few short years.

It's also associated with this 'Pinnacle Plan.' The State of Oklahoma was sued over their foster care of children in general and had to commit to improve those systems of care. That's called the 'Pinnacle Plan' and it's required a lot of resources, a lot of extra money that has gone into DHS.

What we found out, one of the goals was to move children out of institutions and shelters. We were overusing shelters. Apparently, the best practices model is that you try to avoid sheltering. With that, our foster care numbers went up and we needed more foster care families.

So, the governor asked the state to foster care families and met that goal last week (mid-July). She said we'd like to see 1000 new families and she announced we have 1054 new families that have stepped up and said, 'We'll be new foster care parents.'

Along with that, there's been a new steering committee to try and help guide that process. Brian and I have stressed that we have to have tribal representation at those steering committee discussions because we know obviously some of those children are going to be Native American children.

We want to make sure that the tribes' voice is heard on the front end as opposed to: 'Hey, we've developed this program and this plan and won't you all come along.' I think what we're trying to stress is, you need that tribal interaction on the front end.

MR: That's so nice to hear because it was taken for granted in the past. Let's go on in another direction here. Recently, we saw the passage of a new law, the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. For the State of Oklahoma, it defines who is and who isn't an Indian artist.

Of course, already there's the existing federal Indian Arts and Crafts Law. It has strong backing from many tribal representatives and groups and other people. It runs through my mind that there's going to be some people cut out and won't have the opportunity to sell their materials.

For the Mvskoke people, in particular, I would say probably the Euchees who are not a federally recognized tribe but are closely associated with the Mvskoke Nation, but quite independent when it comes to expressing their pride. They might not be able to enter these art shows or even perhaps, a gallery.

What's happening there? Will the state weigh in on it? What are your thoughts?

CB: I think the state will try to stay out of it as much as possible to be honest with you. I think it's one of those issues where, and I've discussed this with tribal leaders as I get out and about, I can tell them that we can be as involved in your business as you want us to be or not. We're fine to not be involved in your business because we understand sovereignty means a lot; it means everything to tribal communities.

I don't want, in any way, to appear that the state is trying to get involved in tribal business. I think that this is one of those issues where I listen to the dialogue. It always means a lot when the five big tribes say, 'we support something or are opposed to something.' We listen to all the tribes, but when the five big tribes come together and sign on the dotted line and say we support the Indian arts bill, it certainly gets our attention.

Here's the way I kind of look at it, I try to measure how much support there is in the tribal community. What I shared with the governor was, from what I can tell, the vast majority of the tribes in Oklahoma are supporting this or people are as far as I can tell. I said I've heard from a couple of detractors, but I said it seems to be from a very tiny minority.

So, we really based the measurement of the kind of political support out in Native country in determining to sign that bill. So, when you asked that question on how involved the state wants to be, I don't think it's a fight we want to wade into. Unless the tribes come to us and say we need to tweak this a little bit. If that happens, we'll obviously try to accommodate something like that but we sure don't want to get in the middle of a battle.

The one thing that I would see that is positive here, is the interest is growing such much that it caused the tribes to want to take this action which overall is a good thing. If more and more people are interested in Indian art and Indian culture, that kind of says something to the brand.

MR: We had chatted briefly about the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City. Last we saw, there seemed to be a way out of the morass. Some people in Oklahoma City, the Chickasaw Nation and the state were finding a solution.

Where are we now with that project and would the governor step in and back it?

CB: She's been very supportive in trying to get that last authorization, the $25 million that the state put forward. She was very vocal in her support and has been supportive through the whole process to see the project completed. Where we are in general and I'm an ex-officio member of that board so I'm invited to the meetings and I sit at the table.

Recently, the Chickasaws stepped in when it became apparent to the City of Oklahoma City, that the law to push the operation of the museum to the City of Oklahoma City. The state leaders were saying, 'we don't want to be involved further in the long-term operation of the museum. We will commit to finishing the capital needs of the museum, but we're not going to be involved leading the operations.'

So, the City of Oklahoma City took that and began looking at the numbers. It sounds like, became apparent that there was going to be an operating deficit at least in the short term. I know the code they're trying to crack is: 'How can we make this long term sustainable so that we don't lose money in the process so you don't operate at a deficit?'

When the city saw that, the Chickasaws saw that and said we will commit to a certain number of years where we will bridge that gap. Whatever that operating deficit is, we are going to fill that.

That's where the conversation has been for the last several months. At the last meeting we had, there were some details that the Chickasaws and the City of Oklahoma City and the state needed to work out.

I'm hoping that I'm going to hear next week (July 25-29) that those issues have been worked out; we'll have to see. But, it seemed to be the tone, as I heard it, was positive. I felt like the Chickasaws were there to kind of be the backstop to make sure that it can work, so Oklahoma City doesn't lose money in the process.

I think that it's exciting to think about what that's going to do, the story that's going to be told once that's opened. I have no doubt that it's going to be successful and that it's going to attract thousands of people to the state just to

Affairs - 11

AFFAIRS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

learn about Native culture.

MR: I think during the discussion, the back and forth, there was something to the effect of people behind the museum and working on the project wanted to build a 'Smithsonian' here in Oklahoma.

The first thing that struck me was, that's going to be a darned expensive project. Was that the case, do you think, or 'overreach?' Has it been scaled back?

CB: I think its been scaled back some and I think what they were seeking is 'Smithsonian' quality kind of museum. My 'real guy' way of characterizing would be, they were seeking the 'Cadillac' version of the museum.

Of course, with all the costs, I could just tell you there was some real 'sticker shock' for some legislative leaders and that's what caused the pushback. You had these different episodes of authorizing money for the museum. You had turnover in the legislature and people coming and saying, 'I thought we just gave you millions of dollars and I thought this was the last ask.'

There was probably some miscommunication in some ways as well.

I tell you that the other thing that's being discussed is the land around the museum, maybe developing it so that it becomes income producing. Maybe that can help subsidize the cost of the museum. Those are the kinds of things they're talking about right now to try and maybe, get that right fit.

MR: Let me ask you about veterans issues. I know we've talked about you're becoming involved with veterans. We're currently waiting for a housing project to get off the ground from HUD. What's on that agenda?

CB: One thing that's struck me since I've been in this position, there's still that proud warrior culture that exists. It blew me away to find out how many Native Americans have served in our armed forces.

I bring a lot of enthusiasm to the table is based on that and what I've found in General Myles Deering who is now the Veterans Affairs director for Oklahoma and he's also the secretary of veterans affairs for Governor Fallin. General Deering approached me one day and said, 'I'd really want to develop some partnerships with the tribes because we are seeing Native veterans who are not taking advantage of their veterans benefits like they should.'

I think there's a lot of things that went into that. I think there is some distrust of the federal government. So, General Deering took it upon himself to try and help build that trust and try to make sure that we're growing their opportunity to benefit.

That's going to be the thrust of his focus and I'm going to try to help him in every way I can. I've encouraged him and I think he's going to plan a consultation with the tribes to try and do a formal sit-down and hear from them as to what they want to see and go from there in his planning.

He has a designated person who's working with the tribes and being seen and being very visible. I think it's a growth opportunity for us. I think there's a lot of benefits being left on the table.

MR: The last time we had a discussion, I asked you how you are going to keep in touch with the 'rank-and-file.' I joking referred to, 'are you going to stomp-dances and hog fries' and things like that to keep in touch with the Native people.

It's one thing to meet with leaders, but when you get out and talk to Indian people, they might have something else to say. Have you been able to keep or develop those connections?

CB: I think that's an area that we need to do more focus on. I would have to say, I don't think we've been able to get on the ground, the regular folks. I've spent the last year, trying to introduce myself to the leaders.

As I mentioned, we had 147 visits and that took up a lot of our time. So, we're going to try to be more intentional about that. I do have to compliment Brian on what he does. He sends me a monthly report and I know he is interactive with the regular folks.

But, I think it's something that we ought to try and do better at.

Tune into 'Mvskoke Radio' every Wednesday at 10 a.m. on 1240AM The Brew KOKL Okmulgee or online at: http://1240thebrew.com/index.html. Archives are available at: http://tinyurl.com/jprlx6b.

Friends remember June Mustari



***Submitted by*:**
Arlene Efurd
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

BEGGS, Okla. — Today, July 9, is the birthday of my friend June Mustari. I was privileged to have met and worked with June when I joined the gaming board. Her sense of humor, spirit and our chats are the things I'll remember the most.

She was very proud of the fact that she was a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) who spoke the native language and was from Hanna, just south of I-40.

She had considerable knowledge of the tribe and tribal customs, which helped me learn about tribal operations. She always tried to ensure that any information obtained was based on facts.

Thank you dear colleague for the support and long-term working rapport you shared with me. Others expressed the same sentiments and stated what a great loss to all of us who had contact with her.

- Arlene Efurd and Friends

I met June and Eugene around 1961 at their place of business and we quickly became close friends.

We didn't talk much about the tribe then, but June and I knew we had a kinship both being Creek. As time went by, I always looked forward to our conversations, dinners, night's out and friendship. June taught me a lot about the culture of Creek Nation. Eugene always supported all that she did for Mvskoke Nation without complaining. She volunteered for so many positions at Tulsa Indian Community and helped with fundraisers, the Council Oak Tree Ceremony, forums for candidates running for office and whatever her community needed. I miss my friend, her support throughout the years and the confidence she had in me.

- A.D. Ellis, citizen

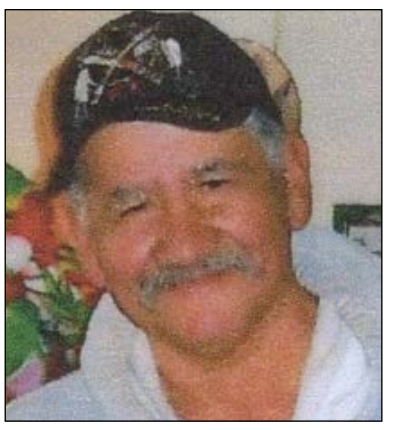
I met June and Eugene in 1996. I can't begin to tell you how much she helped me through the years. I could call her at anytime of the day or night and she would always answer the phone and take time to talk to me. Any Creek traditional, cultural or 'what do I do question,' June was my 'go to' person.

When A.D. was elected second chief (before cell phones) it was June and Eugene standing right beside me giving me coins to make phone calls on the pay phone in the lobby of the old Executive Building at the Creek Nation Complex. On their 50th Wedding Anniversary, they held a celebration in their backyard and there was an accumulation of people from all walks of life. June was a member of the League of Women Voters in Tulsa, Gilcrease Museum Volunteer and held many positions on the board of TCIC.

June helped regain profitability for TCIC's Smoke Shop. I still have her phone numbers saved on my phone. They are a reminder of my friend. When I see them I say hello and MVTO for our friendship.

- Gail Ellis, non-citizen

TONY MARTIN



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Rural Okmulgee resident Tony Martin Jr. passed away June 16 in Okmulgee at the age of 63. He was born Feb. 27, 1953 to Tony Martin Sr. and Rebecca (Yargee) Martin.

Tony worked for Coca-Cola as a fork lift operator and was a member of the Thlopthlocco Indian United Methodist Church south of Okemah. He married Sherry Berryhill Oct. 12, 1993 at High Spring Indian Baptist Church in Okemah.

He is preceded in death by: his parents and brother, Allen Yargee.

He is survived by his: wife, Sherry Martin of the home in Okmulgee; children, Brian Gourd of Tulsa and Tonya Guinn of Okemah; grandchildren, Ashley, Felicia, Andy, Samuel, Spencer and Bill; brother, Gary Rodgers and wife, Debra of Okmulgee as well as a host of friend and other relatives.

Funeral services were set June 21 at Thlopthlocco Indian Methodist Church and internment followed at the church cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

JAMES PROCTOR

HANNA, Okla. — James Samuel Proctor was born Nov. 2, 1944 to Hailey and Rachel Proctor. He left this world July 1, 2016 and went to a better place.

He was one of a kind. He loved listening to gospel and country music. We has born and lived all his life in Hanna. He was set in his ways but we all are. His favorite songs were Glen Campbell's 'Rhinestone Cowboy.' Ferlin Huskies, 'On the Wings of a Snow White Dove.' He loved watching baseball and his favorite team was the New York Yankees.

'Bo's' sisters are: the late Rose Maire Billie, Stillwell, Linda Buckley, Hanna; his brother was the late Baby Boy Proctor, his nephew was the late Baby D and he had several nieces and nephews. His friends that he was close to were Cindy Martin and Clayborn Fields.



TCIC Indian Taco sale & bingo set Aug. 5

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an Indian taco sale for 6:30 p.m. and bingo for 7 p.m., both on Aug. 5 at the TCIC center, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa OK 74132.

For more information call 918-298-2464.

Sulphur Family reunion set Aug. 6

EUFAULA, Okla. — Descendants of the Sulphur family have set a family reunion for 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 6 at the Eufaula Community Center, 1st St. and Wendel Ave. in Eufaula. (Not the MCN Eufaula center.)

A potluck dinner is being planned. Each family is asked to bring a covered or meat dish, or make a donation to purchase meat dishes. They are also asked to bring family photos. Those who have bought event T-shirts can pick them up for their families upon sign in from Janet Johnson. For more information visit the Sulphur Family Reunion Facebook page.

Bristow Community election set Aug. 6

BRISTOW, Okla. — The Bristow Indian Community has set an officer election for Aug. 6 at the community center, 710 S. Main, Bristow, OK 74010.

For more information call BIC election committee secretary Anita White: 918-231-6890.



Prenatal classes set Aug. 23 & 25

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Wewoka Indian Health Center has set prenatal classes for 2-4:30 p.m., Aug. 23 and 25 at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

To register or for more information call: 405-257-7323.

Marshall family reunion set Sept. 3

WETUMKA, Okla. — The 27th annual family reunion for the descendants of Louis and Mandy Marshall is set for 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sept. 3 at the Wetumka Indian Community Center in Wetumka.

Family members are to bring covered dishes and dessert as well as door prize gifts for age groups: one-five, six-10 and 11-16 for a total of four gifts. For more information call: 918-623-2376.

OIC election set for Sept. 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Indian Community has set an officer election for 4-6 p.m., Sept. 12 at the community center in Okmulgee before the regular monthly meeting.

The OIC mailing address is P.O. Box 25, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

TCIC election set for Sept. 22

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Sept. 22 for the chairman and secretary positions, each of which consists of two-year terms.

The deadline for submitting a letter of intent and $20 for a background check is Aug. 19 by 5 p.m.

For more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

Arbor Care seeking citizens to take wood chips

MCN Arbor Care/*Release*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Arbor Care Department is looking for citizens in need of woodchips at their homes for flowerbeds, gardens, etc.

These chips are from a variety of different trees that have been cut down and ran through a commercial chipper.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact one of the numbers below.

Please note that we must have a good access point to deliver and dump the chips.

Roads, driveways, etc. must be accessible for our trucks to get in and out of safely and without getting stuck.

For more information, one of the following can assist you: Oscar Hicks at: 918-752-8577, James Hicks at: 918-752-8014 or Phil Booker at: 918-732-7794.

MNN submission deadlines

Aug. 15 — Aug. 8

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 7

Oct. 1 — Sept. 22

Oct. 15 — Oct. 6

Nov. 1 —Oct. 24

Nov. 15 — Nov. 7

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
IS NOW OFFERING:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT & SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

August 10, 2016 | 6:00PM-7:30PM

MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND

GROUP OVERVIEW:

Personal growth, recovery and healing are a lifelong journey. This monthly women's group offers safe paths to healing while also honoring individual and cultural integrity. The focus is on creative expression through arts/crafts and on building community with other women with similar trauma histories. The group also seeks to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence by learning about trauma with a holistic healing approach. Many survivors can be hesitant to receive individual therapy, therefore support groups that incorporate a focus on alternative holistic healing can be a doorway to beginning the healing process. Women need support to heal from trauma. Part of the process in healing from trauma is developing connection and support with others. Many women are recovering from their traumatic experiences, and this group provides a safe space to explore their thoughts and feelings at their own pace. Healing from trauma can be challenging and our hope is that through group participation it is filled with creative expression and support from women in the group and others in their life.

WHAT IT IS:

Making art or creating crafts in a variety of media including drawing, sculpting, beading, collage, basket weaving, sewing, etc.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

Arts and crafts offer survivors the opportunity to express themselves, and relate aspects of their traumatic experience or healing process without having to use words. Additionally, arts and crafts can enhance skills of self-care, connection with others and a connection to their own body, mind, and spirit.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Family Violence Prevention Program
918.732.7979 | dcostello@mcn-nsn.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
E.B. DOB: 11/09/2015)
Alleged Deprived Child.)

Case No. JV-2015-17

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Unknown father

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the September 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
E.B. DOB: 11/09/2015)
Alleged Deprived Child.)

Case No. JV-2015-17

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Sherri Wells, Natural Mother

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the September 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
A.G., DOB: 07/19/2002)
J.G., DOB: 12/12/2003)
Alleged Deprived Children.)

Case No. JV-2015-16

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Samuel Gonzales
Unknown: Mexico

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 7th day of October, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. **YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED** that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of:
A. T.,
N. T.,
A. T., and
L. T.
Minor Children.

Case No. GD-2016-28

SERVICE OF SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: Dale Davis father of A.T.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Children in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2016-28, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Persons and Estates of: A.T., N.T., A.T. and L.T. the minor children. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor children.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 9th day of September, 2016, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of July, 2016.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,
Okmulgee District

By: Stephanie Bear
(Deputy)

Approved:

Courtney L. Eagan, MCN#543
McKenna & Prescott
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-1112 Telephone
(918) 756-1113 Facsimile
Attorney for Petitioner

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Aug. 15, 2016 "Hiyo Rakko" Big Harvest

Vol. 46, Issue 16

Citizen attorney involved in Dollar General v. Choctaw case — Page 3

DeVorse thanks donor for second chance at life — Page 5



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS



MCN Public Relations

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd gave a summary of his report for the third quarter of fiscal year 2016 during the July 30 MCN National Council quarterly session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Floyd gives quarterly report during Council session

Funding approved to furnish, equip Okemah hospital

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held July 30 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd gave a summary of his report for the third quarter, which was published at: http://tinyurl.com/jrk5yet.

The Treasury Department reported 1,644 employees, up from 1,244 since last quarter.

Floyd said this was in part due to 564 temporary employees participating in the Summer Youth Program.

Treasury reported a total payroll cost of $8,720,085 and Floyd said this is a decrease of $2,459,481 (This decrease was not in the report and 'Muscogee Nation News' ('MNN') audio from meeting is unclear, therefore 'MNN' is unable to independently verify.) from the first quarter.

Floyd said this decrease was mainly due to implementation of pay scale and change in salary classifications.

The Administration Department reported completion of the fee-to-trust application with the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course property in Checotah.

Floyd said they are expecting approval by the end of the calendar year.

Human Resources included their awards luncheon where 129 employees were recognized for service ranging from 10-40 years.

They reported that the number of new hire applications increased from 1946 in the second quarter to 2322.

Floyd noted that some of these might be duplicated, where the same individual applied for multiple jobs.

Information Technology (IT) reported that they supported the Public Relations Office (PR) in transferring the MCN tribal website under PR oversight.

PR reported 87,000 hits in the first weekend of the redesigned website.

The MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) reported that a celebration was held for 50 percent completion of the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah.

View 'MNN' coverage at: http://tinyurl.com/zsw9fmn.

MCNDH reported that they are scheduled to break ground on the Eufaula Indian Health Center project in October and that they are in the process of applying for grants to fund inclusion of geothermal technology and solar panels for the facility.

They reported that MCNDH payroll has been modified to reduce the

Council ~ 6

LTPD responds to incident at MPD request

Subject taken into custody for evaluation

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

MORRIS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department officers responded to an incident July 26 at the request of the Morris Police Department at the intersection of 2nd and Washington Streets in Morris.

MPD Captain Anthony Wind said they received a call from concerned family members that a gentleman had made suicidal threats via social media. MPD and other law enforcement entities including LTPD responded to the home of the individual.

Wind said the individual eventually cooperated with law enforcement and will be sent for a psychological evaluation.

"The individual, we can't release his name at this time just for the simple fact that it became a medical issue," he said. "He was armed at the time that law enforcement made contact with him as well as his family."

Wind said several firearms were removed from the home after the individual was taken into custody.

"We really want to extend our thank you to the Lighthorse Police Department, the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office, the Okmulgee County DA's (District Attorney's) Office and their task force and any other agency that was involved," he said.

Wind was unable to confirm if the individual was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

Lighthorse leadership discusses impact of national shooting incidents

Hawkins, Wind address approach in lieu of escalating tensions

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Several national incidents have occurred recently involving the ambush of police and others where officers have killed minority civilians under circumstances that have been called into question.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department Acting Chief of Police Robert Hawkins and Deputy Chief Daniel Wind III shared how their department has been affected by this on 'Mvskoke Radio' July 27 with host Gary Fife.

"With the recent incidents of how everything has pretty much escalated across the country, we have discussed this issue with our supervisors as well as our officers," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said LTPD is short staffed, making it harder to send multiple officers out together to back each other up.

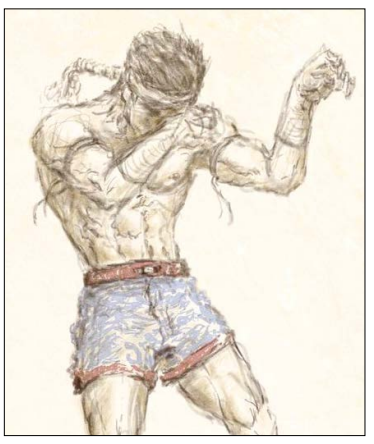
"So we just ask them to pay attention around them and be vigilant," Hawkins said. "Because right now, how officers are perceived just in light of everything that has been happening, basically officers, not just us

Impact ~ 2

Thai fighting event coming to Mvskoke Dome

Red River Rivalry to be first of its kind at MCN

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter



Internet Image

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Red River Rivalry event has been set for Aug. 27 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Unlike the famous rivalry football game of the same name between the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas, this has been billed as an American Thai fighting competition.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Bloodline Fight Club Enterprises CEO James

Fighting ~ 4

Mvskoke language camp held for youth

Event held to encourage use of tribal language

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program hosted the Children's Language Day Camp July 27-29 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Hesci, Estonko (Hello, how are you?), along with Mvto (Thank you) were common words heard throughout the camp.

"We're teaching the children the basics of the language… colors, animals, numbers. They're learning their clans, learning just the basics of introduction," said MLPP Manager Chumona Deere.

Thirty-five children from first-sixth grades participated in the camp.

"They really need to learn the language. The language is important because that's our identity of who we are," Deere said.

For three days from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., the campers participated in language classes, language crafts and activities, watched language videos and played language video games.

Volunteers from the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program lead activities and incorporated the language with games such as basketball and Twister.

Campers also learned how to pray in the language over their food at breakfast, lunch and snack breaks.

"Our language goes back to discipline. It goes back to who

Camp ~ 4

IMPACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but other agencies, we're like a big target out there now."

Hawkins said LTPD strives to not let the shifting public attitude towards law enforcement negatively affect the way they were trained to do their jobs.

"To us, we're not biased one way or the other. It doesn't matter what race you are, the law is broke, and if we're going to have to deal with it, then we'll deal with it in the manner that we have to," he said. "You hate to see any incident go south, and that's why we always have to have our guard up but our men and women are trained extremely well in handling situations like this."

Wind said Lighthorse has become more proactive.

"Take care of our property and take care of anything that's ours and even what's not ours in the communities that we serve," Wind said. "If you got to get out and help change a tire, then get out and change a tire. If you got to arrest a relative, you gotta do your job."

Wind described several circumstances where he said the public has displayed a positive attitude towards officers.

"I know I spoke with a couple of our officers that live in Tulsa and they would go out to eat dinner while they're on duty, obviously in uniform and someone would bring the receipt over saying, 'it was already paid, thank you for your job,' " Wind said.

Nationally however, Wind cited statistics that can be found on the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund website:

As of July 20, 32 officers have been killed in firearm related fatalities this year for a 78 percent increase from this time last year.

Of the 32 cases, 14 were the result of an ambush-style attack compared to three as of this time in 2015.

"We have really upped our security for our men and our women," he said. "We're just asking them to be extremely vigilant."

Wind said the overall reports in the field recently have not indicated an increase in hostilities and that no LTPD officer has ever been lost in the line of duty.

However, in his 11 years with the department, he has noticed one troubling indicator.

"We never had an officer involved shooting until about four years ago and then we had one not too long after that," Wind said. "So that just shows me that times have definitely changed."

With the prevailing attitude towards gun control in Oklahoma and the laws reflecting this such as concealed carry, Wind said they take a better safe than sorry approach.

"Oklahoma being the way it is with our guns, and you're right, we love our weapons," Wind said. "Hunting, sports, whatever, so we should just assume there's a weapon in the vehicle or in the house."

Wind said the best practice for those with a concealed carry that have been engaged by law enforcement is to let officers know where your firearm is and ask how to proceed.

Hawkins' final thoughts on officer safety and dealing with matters of racial tension were to stay aware, be fair in enforcing the laws and return safely.

"Don't be biased or racist in any manner and just go home," he said.

Wind said he is from Dallas, where one of the major police shooting incidents occurred and that he considers it home.

Regardless of location, he said all law enforcement consider each other family.

"Like the good book says, when one suffers, we all suffer," Wind said. "When one of us is victorious, we're all victorious."

He also gave a nod to the dispatchers, saying they are commonly overlooked.

"Our dispatchers are our lifeblood," Wind said. "They are the ones that give us the information."

Tune into 'Mvskoke Radio' every Wednesday at 10 a.m. on 1240AM The Brew KOKL Okmulgee or online at: http://1240thebrew.com/index.html. Archives are available at: http://tinyurl.com/jprlx6b.

Former MCN employee returns from federal government position



Submission

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary has returned from her job with the U.S. Department of Energy to work as an attorney representing the MCN Reintegration Program and its clients.

Geary seeks local impact by helping formerly incarcerated citizens

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Manager Sarai Geary has returned from her job with the U.S. Department of Energy to work as an attorney representing the MCN Reintegration Program and its clients.

"I liked project management, program management. Had a $3 million budget to pretty much do as I see fit and design programs that would help Indian Country at a national level. But I really believe that tribes are best fit to solve their own problems on a local level," she said.

Geary is working through a contract between the nonprofit organization, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma and RiP to help formerly incarcerated Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"So if they have family reunification, if they have any debts that they need taken care of at the courts, so I'll go in and advocate for them to get on low payments for their debts," she said.

Geary said she is stepping into a previously existing position and hopes to develop it.

"What I'd really like to take on though, is employment discrimination, housing discrimination, things of that nature that might be larger issues in society and kind of take it a step further. They've also taken on juveniles," Geary said.

Geary said she gained a wealth of experience with DOE on how to run efficient meetings, give effective presentations, set and achieve goals on a schedule as well as a better overall understanding of the federal system.

"Also, I learned how to be a road warrior. Like I'd be on the road for months at a time. So I learned, just traveling around we met with so many tribes and learned about so many different cultures," she said.

"It's because they may not have a community to belong to and they might not have friends and family and that support system. It's that when people get that, then they are able to turn their lives around."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sarai Geary

While Geary broadened her understanding of Indian Country, she observed others in the federal system that had a limited knowledge.

"There are people out there that have never met a tribal person," she said. "And then just the sweeping generalizations that people do about tribes that have never been around a tribe."

Geary said the best possible way to fix this issue is exposure and mentioned instances where U.S. Supreme Court justices had visited different tribes.

"…Get them out in Indian Country and to get them sitting at the table with tribes and to let them see the culture and let them see the people and just sit down and have a meal with them," she said. "You know talk to them, show them our youth and all the things our youth are doing. Show them all the initiatives that we're doing."

Geary said she observed many of these initiatives on the road and is excited to work for one with her own Nation.

RiP has received national awards and lectured at Harvard University.

"At this point in my career, I really need good modeling for leadership and Tony Fish has been a director of the Reintegration Program for forever. Very effective person, very effective leader," she said.

She also has a personal investment in the cause.

"It has affected my family personally and it is something that I'm really looking forward to making a difference," Geary said.

Geary said she believes generational trauma has influenced the Native American incarceration rates.

"We're living in high crime areas. We're living in areas that there's child abuse… We have kids that are being adopted out in foster care. They're traumatized and then they get on drugs. Some of the educational, like the schools might not be as great," she said.

She said support is key in addressing this.

"It's because they may not have a community to belong to and they might not have friends and family and that support system," Geary said. "It's that when people get that, then they are able to turn their lives around and they are able to see that there's another way."

Geary said she hopes the rest of society embraces this mentality.

"Do you want people to go back out there and keep committing crimes because they can't get a job? Or do you want to give them a chance to have a better life," she said.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Citizen retires from firefighting

Poe reflects on career

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen John Poe retired from the Sedgwick County Kansas Fire Department after 25 years and reflected on why he got into this line of work.

"Just growing up and always being an Indian boy at heart, and really didn't really see myself working as a person behind a desk," he said.

John said he had a short stint as a military fireman and used his experience to remain in the profession after the service began to rely more on the private sector for firefighting.

"Because I could still go around and smash doors and be on the attack but be against a fire or a house or a medical condition and stuff like that," he said.

Due to the quality of pensions for his generation, John said he was able to retire at 51-years-old but described an eventful time with SCFD.

"Of course numerous tornadoes, floods and almost earthquakes but I got out just in time for earthquakes," he said.

He listed other dangers.

"You're working around traffic. You're working around sick people so there's that danger," he said. "And you're also working around people that aren't quite all there sometimes, whether through injury or diabetes or drugs, or just being knocked in the head."

John said there are other hazards that could cause harm later in life.

"These days, there's tons and tons of hydrocarbons and cancerous carcinogens and stuff in all these carpets and furniture that you actually have to wear your air packs after the fire and while you're walking around there," he said.

One specific call he was involved with was the DeBruce Grain Elevator Explosion near Haysville, Kan., in 1998.

"Well it was one of the bigger situations I'd been on or ever seen," he said. "I actually heard it about 30 miles away."

John said he worked on the site for about a month.

"It was a real big giant scene area and I believe we had FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and all kinds of people," he said.

He said the elevators rarely blow and that the laws and regulations have been tightened over the last 10 years.

"But when they do go they're usually pretty big," John said. "Because it usually encompasses the whole grain elevator. Because there's usually a small explosion at first and that shakes up all the dust everywhere in the whole place. And dust is highly explosive, especially grain dust."

John's mother Virgie Poe said she is from just south of Henryetta.

"I attended Eufaula Boarding School and I graduated from Sequoyah Indian School in 1962," she said.

She said the family made roughly 13 moves.

John explained how he ended up in Wichita.

"We were NASA brats," John said. "By the time I became of age, we were here in Wichita, Kansas. Dad was working for Boeing and all that. They moved on and left me here, which at the time I thought was not really a lot of fun. But looking back, this was a good place to grow up."

Beyond his job, John said he remained in Wichita for several reasons.

"Friends, you know, they moved but I was already working here and so I just stayed. I lived in Florida and Denver before I moved to Kansas and, being a teenager in the '80s, in those big places might not have bode too well because I was a little wild man for a while," he said.

He said this is also why his profession was a good fit.

"Got a GED and just kind of took an EMT class and then got hired within six months," he said.

John said his timing was perfect.

"But right after that, there was like thousands of people that wanted to apply," he said. "Because, like I think there was this show called 'Rescue 911.' "

He said the best mindset for new firefighters is to follow the leader.

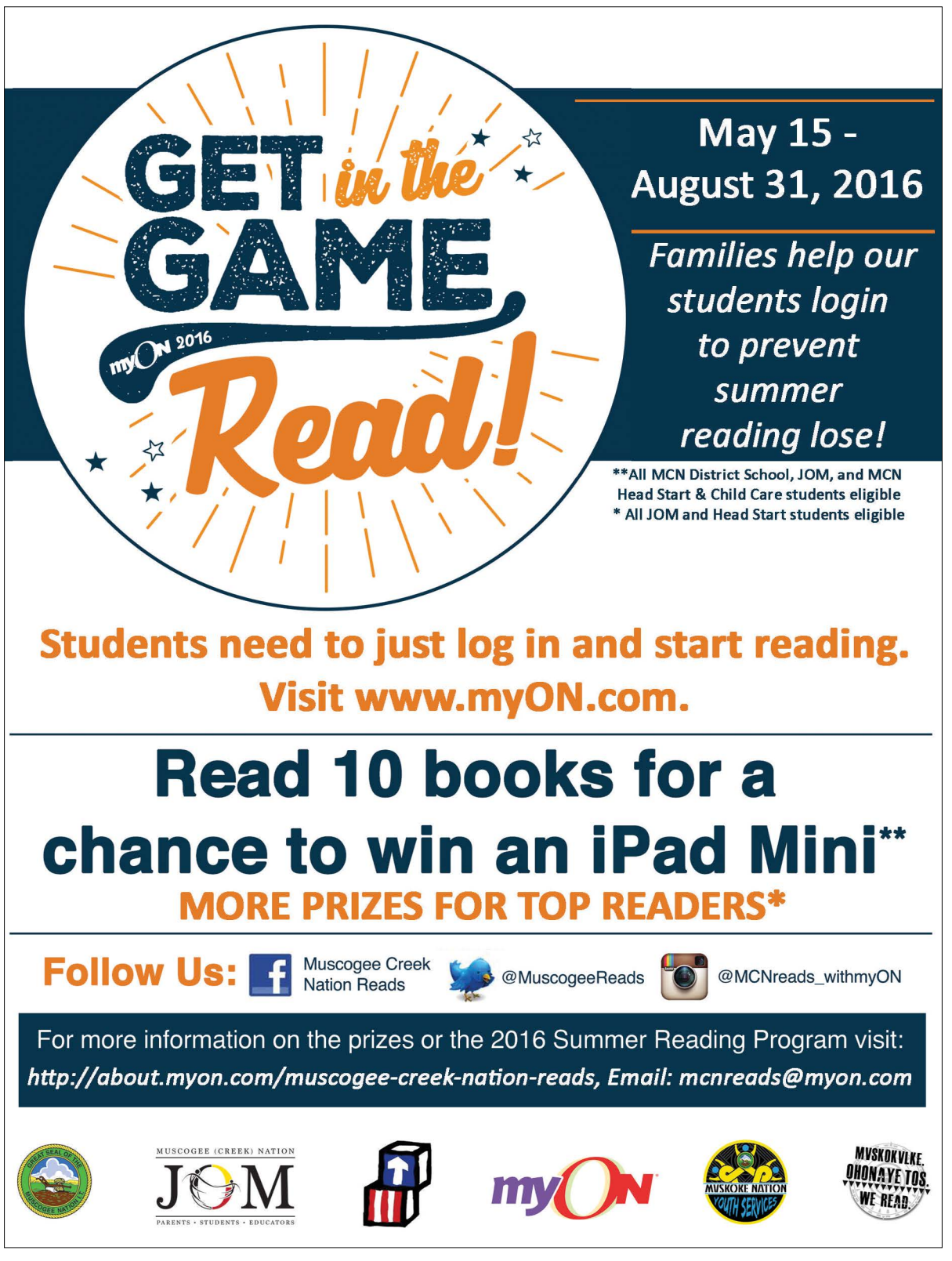
"Well, I would say about the first 10 years, just try to learn all you can. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut. It's an excellent career choice," John said.

Virgie said she is not sure how their parenting influenced this choice.

"You know how kids are, they have their own mind," she said. "But we tried to teach him to do what's right and...that the world is not free."

Virgie said she is proud of John's accomplishments.

"It makes my heart happy," she said.



Citizen attorney involved in Dollar General v. Choctaw case



MNN File Photo
Muscogee (Creek) attorney Sarah Deer

Portal to help assess climate change, water resources

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) attorney Sarah Deer represented over 100 women's organizations as interested parties in the Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians U.S. Supreme Court case by co-authoring an amicus brief on the proceedings.

"If the court only hears from, in this case the Choctaw tribe and the Dollar General Corporation, there's a lot of people who will be impacted by the outcome even though they're not technically a party to the suit," Deer said.

According to previous 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage, the case involves a minor that was sexually assaulted by a store manager while employed at a Dollar General store, which is located on the tribe's reservation through a lease agreement to operate on tribal land.

The corporation challenged the tribe's jurisdiction on the case. Court decisions on issues like this establish legal precedent that could have an impact on the outcome of similar cases in the future.

"What we hope to do is get the court to talk about the importance of tribal sovereignty, the importance of victims' issues so that then becomes law in terms of case law in the United States," Deer said.

Deer said this effort did not have the range of impact she had hoped due to the way the case was decided.

"Unfortunately, because there wasn't an opinion issued in Dollar General, we don't have anything on the record in terms of what our amicus brief might have contributed but we know that it didn't obviously convince everybody on the court, which is why we had a tie," she said.

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 4-4 opinion June 23 on a previous decision by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of the Choctaw.

"…Unfortunately, this tie only makes the victory for the tribe relevant in the fifth circuit and there're only a few tribes in the fifth circuit," Deer said.

Deer was active in an effort to include provisions in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that allow tribes to prosecute non-Native-on-Native domestic violence occurring on their lands.

This was successful and Deer said despite the limited scope of influence in this recent ruling, the next step in advocacy is reauthorization of VAWA in 2018.

"I think the key continues to be legislative reform. And so to that end, there's already work underway, started on the VAWA reauthorization for 2018 to enhance or restore even more authority to tribal courts to take on more cases and I think importantly is funding provisions to assist tribes in being able to run a powerful criminal justice system on our own terms," she said.

Deer explained that in the Choctaw case, they had no criminal jurisdiction over the Dollar General employee because he was not a tribal citizen.

'The federal government would have jurisdiction under the Major Crimes Act because the crime happened on Choctaw land. We don't know why the federal government declined to pursue a criminal case. So, having no opportunities for criminal justice, the family filed a civil lawsuit against Dollar General,' she explained in a written statement.

The case began in 2003, prior to the key VAWA reauthorization. Deer stated that even with this legislation, the tribe would still have been unable to pursue criminal charges.

'VAWA2013 is limited to domestic violence only,' the statement went on. 'The perpetrator and victim have to have an intimate partner (marriage/dating) relationship. VAWA2013 does not give the tribes the right to prosecute non-Indians who commit child abuse.'

Deer still views the decision as a victory however.

"It was thrilling and a release when we found out that the opinion was tied," she said. "A lot of us that worked on the case were texting each other as the decision was announced and really celebrating the narrow victory that we have here."

MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 7

Oct. 1 — Sept. 22

Oct. 15 — Oct. 6

Nov. 1 —Oct. 24

CORRECTION

In the Aug. 1 'Muscogee Nation News' article titled 'Citizen graduates Notre Dame, shadows at Okemah Clinic' the name Dorris Lasley was misspelled. It is Doris.

- I regret this error, 'MNN' Editor Sterling Cosper



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Instructor Rebecca Barnett teaches the Mvskoke language to a camper during the Children's Language Day Camp held July 27-29 at Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Camp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we are as, whether it's Christianity, whether its ceremonial grounds. We have our Creek hymns. We have our stomp-dance songs," Deere said.

MLPP Instructor Rebecca Barnett shared her thoughts about why it is important for children to learn the Mvskoke language.

"They're going to be our future and of course, we're working to save the language," Barnett said. "To me, the younger generations are like sponges, they just absorb it."

Barnett said she taught her morning class about nature and then took the class outside in the afternoon to identify objects in Mvskoke.

"Language is very important of who you are. It's an identification for our people. I think that everybody that has an opportunity to try to learn just a few words if nothing else," she said.

All the attendees received school supplies on the final day and also a visit from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks.

For more information about MLPP call: 918-732-7724 or click their tab at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Fighting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pruitt said the event will feature a team from Texas who will face a local one.

"We have a few coming out of Tulsa, Wagoner and Sapulpa," Pruitt said. "There is a gym (Paddy's Cardio Kickboxing Gym) and we are trying to get some fighters from there too."

Read coverage of Paddy's here: http://tinyurl.com/h4hhl9u.

Pruitt said he wants to share his love of Thai fighting with Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"I am Creek and I always wanted to have an event like this to show everyone at Creek Nation," Pruitt said. "This is the best time to do it."

Why does he want to have an event at the Dome?

"To me, that place is perfect to have an event like this," Pruitt said.

He said this will also help fighters who would otherwise be overlooked by other promoters and help them get their foot in the door professionally.

"It blows my mind that we got this kind of talent in the state of Oklahoma," Pruitt said. "We want to get these fighters noticed and on the map."

Pruitt is handling a lot of duties for this event. He is also looking to compete in it by bringing in another veteran fighter from Mississippi to face.

He said this fight is about nine years in the making and they both feel a need to make it happen.

"We always had something that would stop us both from getting in the ring," Pruitt said.

Pruitt said the last time he competed was in 2011.

"People ask me why I still want to fight," Pruitt said. "I know I can still do this and I have been wanting to fight this guy for a very long time. If we can make this happen, then there will finally be a fight between us. I am not done with fighting."

Doors are scheduled to open at 6:30 p.m., the event is set for 7 p.m. and is also planned to include a Karate and grappling tournament.

Pruitt said attendees should expect a lot of action.

"Muay Thai fighting is very underrated but the most explosive and exciting of combative sports," Pruitt said. "It is huge in other countries such as Thailand but it is getting more popular in America. When people see this type of fighting, they are going to love it."

Tickets for the event are $25 for general admission and $30 for floor seating and can be purchased at Family Video, 400 S. Wood Dr. in Okmulgee.

For more information call Pruitt at: 918-971-8248.

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MCN receives grant for environmental monitoring



Jessica McBride/MNN

Two Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help make environmental assessments throughout the MCN jurisdiction.

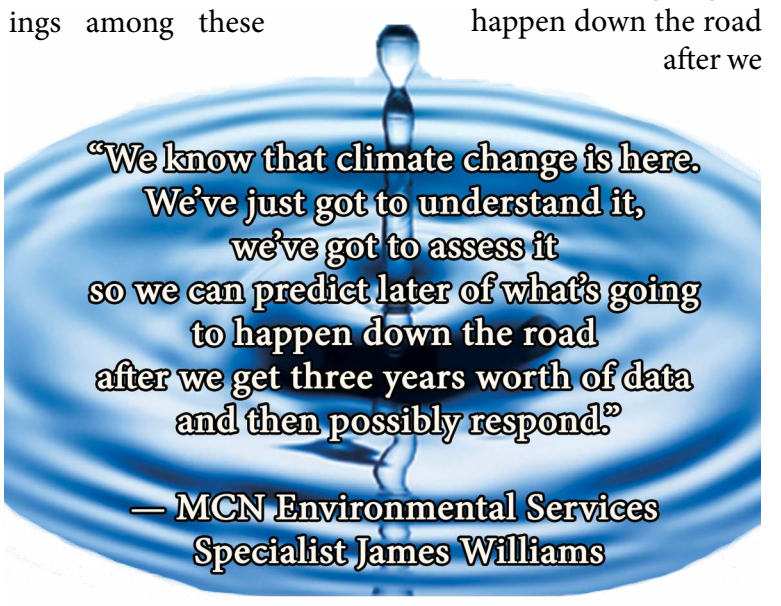
Portal to help assess climate change, water resources

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Services and Geospatial Departments announced that they have received a $493,419 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Exchange Network Grant Program.

The grant is for a span of three years.

According to www.epa.gov, the Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states and tribes to support the development of the network and the transfer of environmental information and findings among these groups.



Geospatial Department Coordinator Frank Harjo said MCN would like to use the funds to develop a tribal service portal that includes open dump site data information and also develop real time monitoring capabilities.

Currently the departments monitor water quality data. They plan to add the open dump site information to the database and share the environmental information through the portal.

Environmental Services will concentrate on assessing the factors and Geospatial will concentrate on the mapping and portal logistics.

In the long term, they hope to give Muscogee (Creek) citizens and other tribal governments access to the environmental data that is being collected through the portal.

MCN plans to share the infrastructure with the Seminole Nation and the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma.

"The idea too, is to develop like a tribal network with the Creek Nation kind of being the lead of this… if we can work together, standardize the way we collect data, the equipment we utilize, it's just going to benefit tribes all over," Harjo said.

Environmental Services Specialist James Williams said his team has already began tracking open dump sites, and hopes to be able to measure environmental factors on tribal land and other natural resources.

He said the project will also help monitor the effects of climate change.

"We know that climate change is here. We've just got to understand it, we've got to assess it so we can predict later of what's going to happen down the road after we get three years worth of data and then possibly respond," Williams said.

Williams said he believes the monitoring will branch into many aspects of conservation and the data could be utilized across MCN departments, from farming to cultural preservation.

Harjo said a majority of the funds will be used for monitoring equipment. Eventually they hope to be able to assess data in real time.

"We're starting off with a few monitors, but our hope is to eventually build that network up within Creek Nation where each part of the jurisdiction has one of these monitoring capabilities," Harjo said.

The departments are currently analyzing locations for monitors to be placed.

According to the EPA's website, MCN has received approximately $2.8 million in grant funds from the federal entity from 1982-2015.

DeVorse thanks donor for second chance at life



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dawn Dennison DeVorse received a kidney transplant 12 years ago, and now competes in the Transplant Games of America.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen competes in transplant games

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When she picked up her bowling ball to send it rolling towards the pins, she did not think of the gutter to each side. She did not think of the competitors near her.

Dawn Dennison DeVorse did not think of the car wreck that almost prevented her from making it to Cleveland for the Transplant Games of America in June, when she hurled the dart toward the target.

"I'm thinking about my donor. I'm thinking about doing the best I can. I'm thinking about I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them," she said.

On her way to the competition, DeVorse along with her husband drove into heavy traffic in Missouri and ended up in an accident.

They left the vehicle in Missouri, and drove a rental to the games. DeVorse could tell the situation distracted her husband, so she prayed.

"So when it finally came to competition time… all I could think about was the reason I was there, who I was there for and to do my best. Not one time did I ever think about that car accident or what we went through," she said. "It was just sort of like I blocked it all… It was about them (the donor)."

DeVorse was determined to represent the person who saved her life, and said she had the best results of the games she has competed in.

DeVorse, who is Muscogee (Creek) and Navajo, came home with three gold medals in bowling and a silver medal in darts.

"I'm there to honor my donor," she said. "The gold medals are fine, but it's all about the donor to show my appreciation. To show the world that I can still live a normal life."

About 15 years ago, DeVorse was placed on dialysis.

She changed her diet to one low in sodium and potassium, and began listening closely to her doctor's instructions.

She was placed on the transplant list after a year-and-a-half.

"When they let you know you're on the transplant list, they give you a pager… when that pager went off, you were supposed to call that number and then they'll tell you what to do from there," DeVorse said.

She waited another year-and-a-half before the pager alarm alerted her at work.

DeVorse said she was instantly excited, but tried to stay calm because there would be a chance that the kidney would not be a perfect match.

Scared and nervous, she went in for a final round of blood work and tests.

"When the actual surgeon came in and said, 'We're ready for you,' is whenever I got real excited," DeVorse said.

DeVorse said after the transplant, she feels like she has been given a second chance.

DeVorse said she does not feel as if people look down on her for having a kidney transplant.

"I think they sometimes think I'm a, really a walking miracle," she said.

DeVorse recommends listening to your doctor's instructions, taking prescribed medication and taking care of yourself.

For those who have been given a second chance by an organ donor like her:

"Celebrate life to the fullest. Live every day like there's no tomorrow. Always keep a smile on your face and believe, have faith in God because he's the one that's getting us through this," she said.

At the Transplant Games, DeVorse said the donor families and living donors are the final group to enter during the opening ceremonies.

She said they receive a great, emotional standing ovation.

"If it wasn't for them, I mean a lot of us wouldn't be here. So we celebrate the donor families," DeVorse said.

DeVorse explained that she views the Transplant Games as a celebration of the gift of life and the giver.

She said that many recipients meet or reunite with their donors or their families at the event.

"I still like to communicate, let them know how I'm doing and that I'm still doing well and how I do participate in the transplant games to promote organ donation and transplant patients," DeVorse said.

Twelve years post-transplant, she has not yet met her donor's family.

She has written letters to the family telling of her accomplishments and expressing her gratitude.

"I think back of the time of how sick, and how I was on dialysis and then when I got the phone call. It gets emotional because I've come a long way from where I've been and just to be able to get up every day and be thankful.

"It's a happy feeling, but then… I think about them when I write that letter. It gets hard sometimes," DeVorse said.

She said she tries to live a normal life and not let anything slow her down. DeVorse is thankful for her second chance.

"Of course I wouldn't be here without my donor," she said. "I'm very thankful for the donor family for making that decision in their time of need, just very thankful for what they've done."

DeVorse is a member of Polecat Ceremonial Ground. She works for the Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission.

If you are a transplant recipient, organ donor or family member and interested in joining Team Oklahoma for the Transplant Games, contact team manager Cherly Manley at: 918-808-4921.

For more information about the Transplant Games of America, visit: www.transplantgamesofamerica.org.



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Cherokee Nation Diabetes Prevention Coordinator Tonya Wapskineh during her spin class at Markoma Gym located in Tahlequah, Okla.

Spin instructor shares health benefits

Wapskineh pitches routine as way to combat diabetes

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — 'You're doing great, ladies," Cherokee Nation Diabetes Prevention Coordinator Tonya Wapskineh said during one of her spin classes.

What is spinning?

"Spinning is basically indoor cycling," Wapskineh said. "You are simulating an outdoor ride."

Wapskineh said that the creator of spinning wanted to mimic the experience for people who cannot ride outdoors.

She said there are areas throughout the country that do not support bike riders and certain conditions that can make it tough for this exercise.

"People have to share roads with cars because there are no bike paths," Wapskineh said. "Very dangerous, and there are other things that can prevent the person that is bike riding from enjoying everything."

She said the classroom environment creates a group atmosphere for participants.

Wapskineh said there are different programs that are specific to their fitness goals.

"Whether it be for strength, endurance or intervals," Wapskineh said. "There is even a recovery rest day with spinning."

For strength, she said they simulate riding on hills and interval programs combine flat roads and hills.

"Even for the rest day, it is an active rest so you are doing something," Wapskineh said. "After a hard workout, it is good to rest the next day but spinning will teach you to rest but still move around so you aren't laying around the house."

Wapskineh started spin as a participant last July after an injury.

"My physical therapist told me about spinning class," Wapskineh said. "I was having problems with my knees so he told me about the class to build my leg muscles up."

She calls it a blessing.

"It was a great time for spin to happen," Wapskineh said.

Another door opened when she was asked to become an instructor. Her class instructor quit so she was asked to train as a replacement.

"I took over teaching the spin classes here at Markoma," Wapskineh said.

Wapskineh said spin has comprehensive health benefits.

"It covers both the cardio and strength areas that you want in a workout," Wapskineh said.

She has also taught Zumba since 2011.

"The purpose for me is to keep people coming through the doors," Wapskineh said. "I love teaching Zumba and spin because I am teaching all fitness levels."

Wapskineh spoke about the focus of her full-time job with diabetes prevention and shared a concept known as the thrifty gene theory taken from the article, 'The Genetics of Obesity: The Thrifty Gene Hypothesis."

In 1962, geneticist James Neel proposed the thrifty gene hypothesis to partially explain the rise in Type 2 diabetes. The central premise is that through natural selection, we evolved to be efficient at food storage and utilization.

He speculated that this came about because ancient humans went through cycles of feast and famine.

Over many generations, the population that survived famine passed on their ability to intake and utilize nutritional fuel.

He theorized that during the last century, the transition to an overabundance of food and limited physical activity, has created a situation where this genetic trait now make us susceptible to diabetes and obesity.

"Our ancestors were living off the land, eating healthy and traditional foods," Wapskineh said.

She said our bodies are not geared towards the type of foods that we have now.

"It has affected us most because it is foreign to what we are suppose to be eating," Wapskineh said.

Wapskineh said diabetes can be prevented by maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle.

"We also focus on people eating healthier, choosing lean meats and nutrient rich vegetables," Wapskineh said. "There are also nuts, fruits and whole grains to eat."

She said nutrition is probably number one and that it is enhanced by exercise.

She said these healthy habits can also help control pre or full diabetes.

"We at Cherokee Nation have been very successful in helping our clients with pre-diabetes," Wapskineh said.

Wapskineh invites those near Tahlequah to try Zumba and spin. She recommended simple exercises such as walking for others.

"Get up and move," Wapskineh said. "Park the furthest away from your office and take the stairs instead of the elevator. Those are active lifestyle choices."

Wapskineh has taught Zumba several times within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and she is always ready to come back and teach again.

"I would love to come back," Wapskineh said. "I had a great time teaching Zumba there in the past and I can do it again."

Council

Continued from page 1

amount of overtime pay.

View 'MNN' coverage of discussion at a March 15 Council planning session regarding MCNDH overtime at: http://tinyurl.com/hne9xso.

Charts in the report show a decrease in overtime hours from over 550 in the first quarter to just over 300 in the third.

MCNDH wages totaled $1,800,000 in the last pay period of the quarter, which is $105,000 less than the first pay period that totaled $1,905,000.

MCNDH reported that their third-party revenue has increased by $45,342,677 since fiscal year (FY) 2012 making it the largest funding source for the department.

They indicated that health insurance status is being verified for all patients and medical procedures at registration, stating that costs can be charged to insurance when available rather than MCNDH.

MCNDH reported that duplicate jobs and tasks were identified in the billing and coding programs and these have been centralized to eliminate redundancies and increase productivity and collections.

Floyd said they are getting into the hardest part of MCNDH restructuring heading towards next year.

"With the department, we are combining finance, IT, and human resource functions from the Department of Health into the executive branch. That has translated into employees, about approximately 20 or so, have received letters that we will have to separate them," he said.

Floyd said he notified MCN leadership that the employees who lost jobs will be given hiring preference for any open positions.

Floyd also said he contacted MCN gaming officials who indicated they would like to hold job fairs for these employees and are interested in inquiring about their experience.

Floyd said he believes the first one will be held in Tulsa with transportation provided and they are exploring another for the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

View 'MNN' coverage about MCNDH restructuring options being explored at: http://tinyurl.com/zfdze7e.

MCNDH reported that their cash collections totaled $13,744,185.66 up from $10,662,964.81 in the second quarter.

Social Services reported an increase in applications for the Hardship Program, Tribal Energy and School Clothing.

The graph accompanying this summary shows a decrease in Hardship applications, while reflecting the increases for Tribal Energy and School Clothing.

On the same page, it was noted that the summary for the Social Security Assistance Program stated 334 cases were closed but no sum of the numbers listed in the accompanying table matched this figure.

'MNN' contacted MCN Secretary of Community of Human Services Neenah Tiger by email for clarification and she issued the following response:

'The graphs presented in the quarterly report for Human (Social) Services Tribal Programs represent the quarter. The monthly data shows: 113 applications for April; 140 for May; 145 in June. This is why the statement of "a steady increase in applications" was made.

'The number of 334 is a typing error for the Social Security Assistance Program. The number should be 330. This number includes all data except for the approvals and denials as those are decisions and not cases processed.'

The Reintegration Program (RiP) reported they received a $291,000 grant (see NCA 16-101 below) to be used for serving homeless veterans.

They also listed that Justice Innovations, which is based out of New York, visited to make a documentary on their program.

Higher Education reported that their staff assisted 627 students this quarter through funding from seven different departmental programs.

They listed a plan to continue visiting local schools and MCN events to maintain community relationships.

Tribal Construction reported 10 completed projects such as the Splash Pad, which has been reopened after a closure that started July 5 for repairs, and three completed vendor pads for the Omniplex.

Agri-business reported 514 head of livestock.

Floyd said Tourism and Recreation (T&R) had 728 volunteers for the MCN Festival in June and an estimated event attendance in excess of 40,000 people.

Floyd introduced the new T&R Director David Turner.

The Cultural Center and Archives reported helping MCN host the Native Vision Sports and Life Skills Camp for the first time June 9-11 with 400 youth participating.

They listed that this was the 20th year for the camp and MCN plans to host it for the next two.

The Housing Department reported that the Elder Subsidy Program has approved 26 applicants to receive assistance with rental housing.

They also listed that they are working with Bank2 to start the Section 184 Pilot Program and that new staff are being trained to help the first 10-15 applicants.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website states that the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program is a home mortgage specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native families…that can be used on and off Native lands for construction, rehabilitation, purchase of an existing home or refinancing.

See more at: http://tinyurl.com/86sxdw3.

Floyd said that Housing is implementing a corrective action plan for findings by the HUD Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding the department and that this plan has been sent to the HUD regional office.

View 'MNN' coverage of the HUD OIG audit at: http://tinyurl.com/z9t6mt2.

The Veterans Affairs Service Office (VASO) reported the outcome of their on-site push mission to locate Muscogee (Creek) veterans and their surviving spouses.

VASO listed that this was to help them with intake and revaluations for their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and that the push turned up 10 for this service.

VASO reported that of their claims: 1,026 active ones were opened, 777 are under consideration and 703 were awarded.

The Citizenship Office reported that they provided service to 11,810 citizens, have replaced 1,720 citizenship cards and 672 Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood cards (CDIB) as well as issued 546 new citizenship cards and 467 new CDIB cards.

They listed that there were 80,952 citizens enrolled as of June 30.

Floyd said this is an increase of 459 people (This decrease was not in the report and 'MNN' audio from meeting is unclear, therefore 'MNN' is unable to independently verify.).

The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) reported a total of 29 graduates in 2016, with 18 from the tribal services major, five from Native American studies and three from both gaming and police science.

Floyd ended his report by taking comments from the Council and Rep. Rufus Scott said he had heard from citizens who are still complaining about Executive Branch entities not answering phones or returning calls and asked for continual improvement.

A mass email had been sent telling Floyd's leadership to be present at the meeting and he agreed with Scott's request and reiterated this to them.

Mvskoke Media has been conducting ongoing research regarding this issue.

Coverage will be forthcoming.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• **TR 16-100 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Indian Health Services (IHS) for the employment of Amanda Wyatt as commissioned personnel for the MCNDH. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The agreement would allow MCNDH to employ Wyatt as a senior nurse at the Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic.

Through the commission, IHS would assist MCNDH in enhancing their services.

• **TR 16-101 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for the construction, improvement and installation of satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate wastewater disposal facilities for 20 Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

MCN and IHS wish to construct, improve and install water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for 20 new or like new Indian-owned homes in these counties.

IHS will provide labor, materials, connection fees, equipment and supplies as well as $393,000 for the project.

MCN will provide easements, rights-of-way or other land interests deemed necessary for completing the project, give IHS representatives access to the lands, designate a project representative to coordinate MCN project participation and provide assistance in complying with the National Historic Preservation Act and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

• **TR 16-102 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a pharmaceutical purchase agreement between MCN and Saffa Infusion Pharmacy for pharmaceutical products and services for MCNDH. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

MCNDH needs pharmaceutical products and services for their facilities. For more information about Saffa visit: www.saffarx.com/about.php.

• **TR 16-103 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service line agreement with the East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative for the purpose of providing and maintaining electrical service to the Okfuskee Indian Community Center. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The center needs electrical service and this requires a new line.

• **TR 16-104 Confirming the nomination of Cynthia Tiger to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF) Board. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The board structure was created through NCA 16-080 passed during the Council's May regular session.

It states the board is made up of five members, two chosen by the principal chief and three by the Council. All members must receive Council confirmation.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynthia Tiger was nominated by the Council.

• **TR 16-105 Authorizing the Office of Public Gaming (OPG) to execute an agreement with Crossmatch. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

OPG must process the fingerprints of their vendors and employees to give them gaming licenses.

Crossmatch has been selected for this and their website is: http://tinyurl.com/zx6p5xt.

• **TR 16-106 Approving beer sales at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 36, Chapter 7, Subchapter 302A states all beer and liquor outlet locations will be approved by the Council and Holdenville wishes to sell beer.

• **TR 16-107 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute license renewal applications between MCN and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) for MCNDH facilities, equipment and programs. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

OSDH is the governing body for medical facilities in the state and MCNDH is required to file periodic applications with them to maintain licensure for their operations.

• **TR 16-108 Authorizing tribal participation in a nationwide elder needs assessment by National Resource Center on Native American Aging. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

MCN Elderly Nutrition wishes to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging to enhance their services and needs to complete the assessment to qualify.

• **TR 16-109 Approving the memorandum of agreement for IHS Project OK 08-Q39 and authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS on behalf of the United States of America and the Shady Grove Rural Water District No. 5. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

IHS helped provide domestic water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for Native American families in this area and wishes to transfer the rights for these facilities to the families.

• **TR 16-110 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County for improvements to K Bar Road. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The bill was initially postponed one month during the meeting but was approved during the other business portion of the agenda after Floyd asked it to be put up for reconsideration.

He said that postponing the project would cause difficulties in getting the necessary renovations done to the road in conjunction with completion of the MCN Community Hospital construction. This road gives access to the facility.

Based on discussion in the meeting and a conversation

Council - 7

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

afterwards with Acting PR Director Geebon Gouge, the road will be renamed through a contest held for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

This caused the need for adjustments, as K Bar is how the project is named in the MCN Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) federal roads inventory that controls funding.

Floyd said they will work with necessary parties to fix the naming issue.

• **TR 16-114 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okmulgee County and the City of Okmulgee for improvements to Mission Street, Gun Club Road East and Lake Boren Road. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The agreement would have MCN conduct the pre-construction plans and activities, specification and engineer's estimate package, award the contract for the work, monitor and inspect the work as well as provide $553,887 out of the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) funding for all reasonable and agreed upon costs.

Afterwards, the county and city will be responsible for maintenance and repair.

• **TR 16-115 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Creek County for improvements to Gypsy School Road and Lake Jackson Road. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

The agreement would have MCN conduct the pre-construction plans and activities, specification and engineer's estimate package, award the contract for the work, monitor and inspect the work as well as provide $1,152,359 out of the FHA funding for all reasonable and agreed upon costs.

Afterwards, the county will be responsible for maintenance and repair.

• **TR 16-118 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) to execute a consulting services agreement with Magellan Inc. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB wishes to provide wellness services for gaming.

According the Magellan website, they offer payroll solutions, Affordable Care Act compliance and legal advice, employee benefit options and business insurance.

• **TR 16-119 Authorizing GOAB to execute a laundry services agreement with Linen King. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.**

GOAB seeks approval to enter into a three-year contract to use Linen King for MCN gaming facilities.

According to their website, Linen King is a laundry services company.

• **NCA 16-101 Authorizing the expenditure of $291,414.70 awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor to MCN RiP. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The grant will be used for creating a program to provide rehabilitation services for homeless Native American veterans through collaboration with the Urban and Non-Urban Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program and the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program.

• **NCA 16-102 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to a community baby shower for Hughes and Seminole Counties. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The event is held to help provide necessities to expecting Native American mothers. To be invited, mothers are required to attend prenatal classes in June, July and August.

During the meeting, Barnett said she had posted her number on social media to address questions about the bill.

Barnett said she did not get any calls but some of the other representatives had been contacted by people against the bill and that she had also seen social media posts against it.

She said that classes for expectant mothers accompanying the shower address healthy nutrition, being substance free while pregnant, education on sudden infant death and shaking syndromes, immunizations and health care.

Barnett said there are no OB-GYN physicians in Hughes County to provide health care during pregnancy.

She said that tribal law allows the amount in the amendment to be appropriated to non-profits and that one of the involved organizations, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery is certified.

She said that the Executive Branch could consider budgeting to help pay for the event in the future out of one of its departments or programs.

Barnett said that Hughes County has the highest infant mortality rate in Oklahoma at seven percent.

She said that Muscogee (Creek) citizens are given preference and others are mothers to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

She said that MCN helped finance a similar function in Okmulgee County.

Barnett estimated that 40 percent of the City of Holdenville population, located in Hughes County is Muscogee (Creek) and that the lack of resources and finances creates a need for this service.

Funding source is interest on the Permanent Fund.

• **NCA 16-103 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the Eufaula Indian Club. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The club requests this amount to finance their hosting of the Honoring Our Veterans Labor Day Powwow Sept. 3-4 in Eufaula.

• **NCA 16-104 Authorizing the expenditure of $177,154 from the District Attorneys Council through the Victims of Crime Act for MCNDH to develop the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) services. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

MCNDH received the grant for the first time last year.

According to www.forensicnurses.org, SANE nurses have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of a patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse.

MCNDH is responsible for a match of $9,324 to receive the grant.

Funding source is interest on the Permanent Fund.

• **NCA 16-106 Approving the principal chief's three-year plan to program tribal judgment funds in the total amount of $797,400 for FY: 2017, 2018 and 2019. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The funds will be used for the Tribal Burial Assistance Program.

According to MCNCA Title 37, Subchapter 4, Section 2-453, titled 'Tribal Judgment Funds,' 'On or before June 1, 1986 and every third year thereafter, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall hold a Public Hearing to present a proposed Three-Year Plan for discussion and comment by Muscogee (Creek) Indians.'

In previous 'MNN' coverage, MCN Assistant Controller Kathy Guthrie said that the three-year plan money comes from tribal judgment funds awarded during a case in the 1970s when the Nation filed suit against the federal government regarding land ceded during a treaty.

MCN held a three-year plan meeting June 14 at the National Council chambers in Okmulgee to take suggestions on use of the funds.

View 'MNN' coverage of the three-year plan meeting here: http://tinyurl.com/h8mtfss.

Duing the July 7 Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting, Guthrie said they did not receive any citizen suggestions for use of the funds.

• **NCA 16-107 Authorizing a $10,080 appropriation to the MCN Environmental Services Program for the purpose of installing wells and permitting in conjunction with hydrogeological activities funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

Environmental Services wants to construct wells at Hannah Farms for pumping and observation purposes along with water data collection activities funded through the bureau to maximize water resource identification and preservation.

They require $7,700 for well construction and $2,380 for Oklahoma Water Resources Board permits at a total of $10,080.

Funding source is interest on the Permanent Fund.

• **NCA 16-108 Authorizing a $5,234,471 appropriation for furniture, fixtures, equipment and services for the new Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

$3,426,926 will be drawn from the Economic Development Fund and $1,807,545 will be drawn from the Capital Equipment Fund.

• **NCA 16-109 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Education and Training State/Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Program FY 2016 budget. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The funds will be moved to the background checks, membership/fees and supplies line item to cover background checks for two education specialists so they can work full-time within partnering schools.

They will also be used to purchase cultural publications and resources as outlined in the grant.

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, 'the STEP grant aims to promote collaboration between tribal educational agencies and state educational agencies, and to build the capacity of tribes as they develop and enhance their roles, responsibilities and accountability in Indian education.'

• **NCA 16-110 Authorizing a $4,389.98 special appropriation to Tulmochussee Indian Baptist Church. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Scott sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The church seeks assistance in purchasing two riding lawn mowers.

Funding source is interest on the Permanent Fund.

• **NCA 16-113 Authorizing the expenditure of $963,175 for paving and drainage improvements to be located at CMN. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

Based on Article 6, Section 7C of the MCN Constitution that deals with Council's oversight of tribal land and interests such as the CMN campus, they must approve this project.

TTP will provide the funds.

• **NCA 16-114 Amending MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 2, titled, 'Budget and Finance.' Rep. David Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

Based on the version of MCNCA available on the tribal website, this amendment adds an 'Investment Committee' portion titled 'L.' under Title 37, Chapter 2, subsection 2-203 titled 'Permanent Fund.'

It states that the committee will consist of the principal chief, tribal administrator, the controller, attorney general and the Council speaker or their designees and these designees must be from within the respective offices/branches they represent.

The committee will function only as an advisory body for the controller and principal chief so they may carry out their banking and investment duties set forth in Title 37, Subsection 2-717E, 1-3.

• **NCA 16-118 Amending MCNCA Title 37, Subsection 2-203M to alter the distribution of funds. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.**

The bill amends this portion of the Code so that the following action will take place in FY 2016 rather that FY 2017:

Fifteen percent of gaming revenue will be deposited into the Permanent Fund and 10 percent will be deposited into the Health and Human Services Fund regardless of limitations set forth in Section 2-203E of the Code.

It also amends this portion of the Code so that the following action will take place after FY 2016 rather than FY 2017:

The Council may revisit the distribution percentages of tribal gaming funds in order to determine the best and most effective distribution percentages for MCN and this will only apply to the time limit mentioned in this section unless extended by legislation.

The upcoming regular session is set Aug. 27.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Prenatal classes set Aug. 23 & 25

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — The Wewoka Indian Health Center has set prenatal classes for 2-4:30 p.m., Aug. 23 and 25 at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

To register or for more information call: 405-257-7323.

Marshall family reunion set Sept. 3

WETUMKA, Okla. — The 27th annual family reunion for the descendants of Louis and Mandy Marshall is set for 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sept. 3 at the Wetumka Indian Community Center in Wetumka.

Family members are to bring covered dishes and dessert as well as door prize gifts for age groups: one-five, six-10 and 11-16 for a total of four gifts. For more information call: 918-623-2376.

OCMA election set for Sept. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set their board election for Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the OCMA office, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, 73105, at: 405-605-2621 Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Morris Community election set Sept. 8

MORRIS, Okla. — The Morris Indian Community has set an election for their board of directors 6 p.m., Sept. 8 at the Morris Elementary School Cafeteria, 306 S. 5th St., Morris OK 74445.

For more information call Linda Tenequer at: 539-832-1876 or email: moric@mcn-nsn.gov. The regular MIC meeting is held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

OIC election set for Sept. 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Indian Community has set an officer election for 4-6 p.m., Sept. 12 at the community center in Okmulgee before the regular monthly meeting.

TCIC election set for Sept. 22

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Sept. 22 for the chairman and secretary positions, each of which consists of two-year terms.

The deadline for submitting a letter of intent and $20 for a background check is Aug. 19 by 5 p.m.

For more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

Fall revival set Sept. 25-27

EUFAULA, Okla. — Okfuskee Baptist Church has set a fall revival that begins 7 p.m. nightly, Sept. 25-27.

The speaker will be Ernest Best, the song leader will be Molline Jackson and the pianist will be Robin Proctor. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Colbert Hill at: 918-490-9019 or Judy Moresette at: 918-617-7793.

First time homebuyer class set for Aug. 27

MCN Housing Department

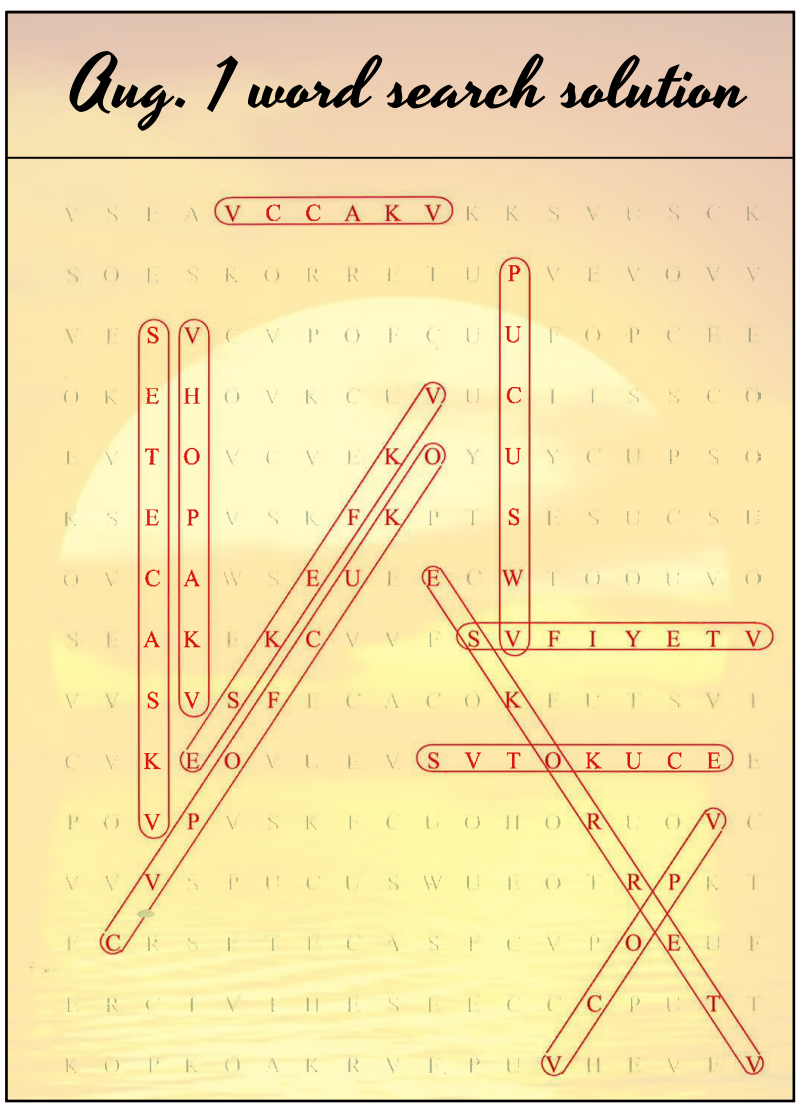
OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Department has set a first time homebuyer education class for 8 a.m., Aug. 27 at the MCN Housing Building second floor conference room.

The topics that will be covered include: how to know if homeownership is right for you, budgeting and taking control of your money, the loan process, environmental and contract to closing.

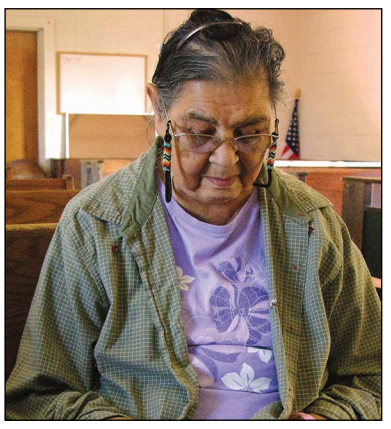
The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Costs Program helps Native American families become first-time homeowners by providing grant assistance for down payments and closing costs.

For pre-enrolment call Melba Hall at: 918-549-2529.

Aug. 1 word search solution



ESTHER MAE BRUNER



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Esther Mae (Frank) Bruner peacefully left the earth to be with her Heavenly Father Aug. 5, 2016 at her home in northeast Okmulgee County surrounded by family and friends.

She was born Nov. 10, 1930 in the Verdigris Bottoms area of Oklahoma to Austin Frank Sr. and Ida (Tecumseh) Risby.

After attending Twin Hills School, she would eventually give birth to seven children and later be married to Miller Bruner by Rev. Harry Long. She lived the majority of her life on her mother's allotment in northeast Okmulgee County.

She worked as a cook at the Bixby Manor for numerous years until retirement.

Esther was a dedicated wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and member of Twin Hills Indian Community and Concharty United Methodist Church located just south of her home.

Esther attended and worked for the advancement of the church, following God's calling since birth along with other family members and relatives.

She sternly and consistently encouraged others to attend, worship God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Though she was often quiet, conversations with her were sincere, poignant and heartfelt.

Esther left an everlasting impact on those with whom she came into contact. She will exist in sprit and memory until we meet again in the next life.

She was preceded in death by her: sons, Danny, Ronnie and Kenneth On-The-Hill; husband, Miller Bruner; mother, Ida (Tecumseh) Risby; father, Austin Frank Sr.; stepfather, Tim Risby; brother, Rev. Newman Frank Sr.; nephew, Larry Hudgens and daughter-in-law, JoAnn Frank.

Her remaining family members are: children, Jerrie On-The-Hill of Morris, Patricia Morgan and husband Emanuel of Okmulgee, Levi On-The-Hill and wife Deborah of Beggs and Austin Frank Jr. of Poetry, Texas; grandchildren, Georgina Tiger of Morris, Gregory Tiger of Morris, Christopher Tiger of Okmulgee, Louis Morgan of Okmulgee, Daniell Morgan of Okmulgee, Brian On-TheHill and husband Mark Pendergrass of Beggs; Mahaya On-The-Hill of Beggs; Kimberly Abbott and husband Stephen of Mabank, Texas, Stephanie Rodriguez and husband Jamie of Rockwall, Texas, Keven Frank and wife Katrina of Heartland, Texas, Lori Carter and husband Jeff of Mesquite, Texas; 20 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren; sister, Remona Hudgens of Okmulgee, a host of nieces and nephews as well as numerous other relatives.

A wake service was held Aug. 8 at Concharty United Methodist Church, 19040 South Garfield Rd., Okmulgee OK and a funeral service was held Aug. 9 at the church.

ROSIE MAE BRUNER



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Rosie Mae Fry Bruner was called home July 23, 2016 by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, surrounded by her loving family.

She had just celebrated her 90th birthday.

Rosie, or known to many people as Mallie, was born July 22, 1926 to Sandy and Ella Fry.

She was a member of Hickory Ground #2 Baptist Church where she was a woman's leader for many years.

Rosie is preceded in death by her: parents, Sandy Fry Sr. and Ella Harjo Fry; husband, Jackson Bruner; daughter, Ella 'Chick' Hill; granddaughter, Alyssa Frank; brothers, Sandy Fry Jr. and Buster Fry and sisters, Nettie Harjo and Lorene Sumka.

She is survived by her: daughters, Patsy Frank of Okmulgee, Minnie Proctor of Dewar, Nellie Lasley of Henryetta, Emma Wind of Oklahoma City, Cinda Bruner of Henryetta and Wanda Williams of Henryetta; brothers, Roley Fry and Johnson Fry of Henryetta and Bobby Fry of Okmulgee; sisters, Alice Fields of Henryetta, Ann Kelly of Glenpool, Sue Harley, Martha Fry and Bertha Fry, all of Henryetta; her precious grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

Rosie was a homemaker who loved taking care of her family.

She was dedicated to serving her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at her home church until her health caused her to stay at home.

She was not only a women's leader at church but also to her family.

She would always encourage her family and friends in keeping Jesus Christ in one's life.

She will be remembered as a pillar of strength to her family and friends.

She will be forever remembered and missed by her family. As Rosie would always say, "Keep going to church."

A wake service for Rosie was held July 27at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Sydney Lee and Rev. Wallace Gambler officiating.

A funeral service for Rose was held July 28 at Yardeka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Sydney Lee and Rev. Wallace Gambler officiating. Interment followed immediately at the Fry-Harjo Family Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Junior Frank, JoMekko Hill, JR Williams, Byron Proctor, Devon Bruner, Justin Sanchez, Victor Rivas and George Fields. Honorary pallbearers were: Bill Proctor and William Wind, the grandsons and brothers of Rosie Bruner.

Flowergirls were the granddaughters of Rosie Bruner.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Council awarded Youth Council of the Year

MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (Unity), which is an organization dedicated to augmenting social and mental development to contribute to a stronger Indian Country, named the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Council as Youth Council of the Year July 25 during the 2016 National Unity Conference 40th Anniversary Gala held in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The MCN Youth Council was established in March 2015 and since that time has hosted different community and awareness events.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Services Program Director Nancy Mason said, "We started about March of last year, of 2015 planning our youth council, bringing young people together and in just that short time they did service learning projects. They developed their youth council, their bylaws, elected officers and they haven't stopped since that time."

One of the projects planned and completed by the Youth Council was the Mvskoke March, a walk from Okmulgee to Oklahoma City to bring awareness to teen dating violence.

Youth Council member Tafv Sanders said the Youth Council means a lot to him.

"They are like my second family," Sanders said.

MCN Youth Council Sergeant at Arms Tyler Hill felt delighted about the award.

"It feels exciting, actually first year coming to Unity as a group of youth council and actually winning as a unit," Hill said.

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Sept. 1, 2016 "Otowoskuce" Little Chestnut

Vol. 46, Issue 18

Fleet Services keeps MCN, citizens on the road — Page 2

School term paper addresses tribal land, tax questions — Page 3



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

Emvponayv: One who tells the story



MNN File Photo

Fallen warriors, MCN supports activists, White House official fistfight

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Let's begin with a couple of things that are kind of sad, but worth noting.

First of all, Chief David Bald Eagle, who appeared in the Oscar-winning 1990 film 'Dances With Wolves,' has died at age 97.

He was the grandson of Chief White Bull, who fought in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Bald Eagle appeared in more than 40 films and was a veteran of World War II. He died July 22 at his home on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

Outside of show business, Bald Eagle's dedication to the Lakota people saw him elected as the first chief of the United Native Nations in 2001, addressing indigenous people worldwide.

Besides the man himself, the thing here worth mentioning is the fact that his passing was noted in several major national and even international media outlets.

Let's hope that this is a trend in media to pay more attention to Native people and issues, but let's also hope it wasn't just because he was a movie actor.

RIP David Bald Eagle.

Now a second passing that is also worth noting.

Ojibwe author Jim Northrup dies at age 73.

This was reported by several Native and mainstream outlets in the Upper Midwest part of the country.

Now, most of the folks down here probably never met the man, but his passing is worth paying attention to.

Northrup was best known for his syndicated newspaper column about reservation life in the Ojibwe territory. 'Fond Du Lac Funnies' gave readers some insight into life on the rez and how they saw their community, the country and occasionally, the world.

Northrup was known as an author, role model and Vietnam combat veteran who spoke to other veterans to help them heal from their

Emvponayv ~ 3

Health officials discuss assessment findings, improvements

MCN, Health merge finance, IT, HR departments

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd has incorporated the services of Southwest Hospital Partners to review and make recommendations for the MCN Department of Health in response to its reported $65 million budget deficit.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For some Muscogee (Creek) citizens, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd's request for a $65 million loan to fix a reported Department of Health budget deficit painted a distressing picture for the future of the Nation's health care.

MCNDH Acting Secretary of Health Shoneen Alexander Ross said she believes the numbers discussed at that time are on point with the findings from the past few months.

After 148 days of discussions, assessments and changes, Alexander Ross said it is a good time to be at the Department of Health.

"I think we're headed in a forward direction… we're making lots of change, but it's change for the better," she said.

In June, Floyd requested help from Southwest Hospital Partners, asking the company to review MCNDH and make recommendations to address deficiencies.

Roger Jenkins with Southwest, said they have experience working with tribal health systems, but most of their experience is working with non-profit and for-profit health systems.

He discussed deficiencies found during his assessment.

"The Department of Health has gone through a lot of trials and tribulations," Jenkins said. "It's had lots of leadership changes and the hallmark of any great organization is stable and consistent leadership and I think that's one thing that's been lacking with the department for quite some time."

Jenkins said he believes leadership issues have led to other problems including acquisitions and a lack of long term planning.

"But they were asked to become a hospital company almost over night. With only one hospital in their portfolio, they took on three more and that's a big ask, that's a big jump for any company," he said.

Jenkins said that all of the problems found during his analysis are fixable.

"That's the good news is that while you kind of wound

Health ~ 2

Citizen files suit against MCN for housing issue



Internet images

MCN declines to comment

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Barney Ingram filed a lawsuit in MCN District Court July 27 against the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing, Acting Housing Secretary Alvin Bucktrot and Principal Chief James Floyd.

Court documents for the petition for relief allege breach of contract and slander of title complaints.

"Me, like a lot of other citizens, had problems with their homes. I've had problems for 25 years, one thing or another… just a lot of stuff that needs to be brought to the surface and looked at, and why ain't these people being helped like they ought to be," Ingram said.

The complaints described in CV 16-114 state the defendant constructed a home for the plaintiff around 1986 in a location not originally agreed upon by the parties.

Around Jan. 6, 2016, Ingram entered into a contract with Housing for MCN to purchase the property back because of the home's location. The documents state under the slander of title complaint, 'The Plaintiff knew and acknowledged the home was built by the MCN Housing Department in a place that was not agreed upon by the parties and placed the

Suit ~ 2

Youth council celebrates first anniversary

Director, officer reflect on accomplishments

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council celebrated their first year of operation June 20.

According to their Facebook page, MNYC is composed of Mvskoke youth ages 12-24 who want to empower, enhance our voice and sustain the Mvskoke way of life.

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services program, which oversees MNYC, was a result of discussion during the 2014 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Stra-

Anniversary ~ 4



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kevin Hill was drafted to play for the Houston Astros June 11 after graduating from the University of South Alabama.

Citizen drafted by the Houston Astros

Hill excited to make love of baseball a profession

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) pitcher Kevin Hill saw his dream come true when he was selected to play for the Houston Astros June 11 in the 25th round of the Major League Baseball draft.

"I was nervous," Hill said. "I talked to a few scouts. When I finally got the call, I was overjoyed."

The Tecumseh native has been playing baseball for as long as he can remember.

"I use to hit," Hill said. "I

Drafted ~ 4

Health

Continued from page 1

up where you are by accident, the good thing is you're in a good place as far as the future is concerned," he said.

Jenkins compared MCNDH problems with industry issues nationwide.

He said he expects that the process of correcting issues will take several years, and plans to continue working with the department on productivity management and developing staff and subject matter experts.

"The wonderful thing about this engagement is you've got a lot of great people trying to do the right thing for all the citizens of the Nation," Jenkins said. "While the Department of Health has had its struggles, it's certainly focused on delivering excellent patient care every single day and that's something we don't always see with clients and happy to hear and quite thankful for."

Alexander Ross said one of the changes MCNDH is undergoing is merging human resource, information technology and finance functions with MCN for efficiency and cost savings.

"We're trying to figure out how we can always balance revenue with expenses," she said. "Right now, we're going through the budget cycle, making plans for FY (fiscal year) '17 and things that we can do in order to put the health system in a really good position financially, a sustainable position financially and we're making changes to do that."

She said that there has been some tough decisions but it will be change for the better.

"Historically, if you look back over the last couple of years, we've really grown really fast," Alexander Ross said. "What we've tried to do over the course of the last 90 days or 120 days is go in and look at where our needs truly are, where we may have overstaffing or even understaffing because there's a mixture of both and trying to put those resources where they best suit the Department of Health."

She said the merger has affected the jobs of roughly 20 individuals, but eight have already been assigned to other tribal jobs.

Alexander Ross said Floyd is committed to repositioning employees to jobs that are currently open at the Nation and its operations, or jobs they wish to pursue outside the Nation.

Alexander Ross said that the health industry is a tough business to be in and referred to health facilities closing around the state and within the tribal jurisdiction.

"We're certainly not out to close any facilities per se but we are looking at where we can strengthen those," she said. "And it's just like in any industry, you have to be able to operate in the black."

Jenkins said they will help the department develop an integrated delivery system, which will help connect different patient care aspects such as inpatient care and rehabilitation services, and better organize the system for the future.

In response to a question regarding accountability for the deficit, Alexander Ross said they are trying to make changes to the governing board and create checks and balances.

"The way it's been designed I guess historically and almost to even present day because we're still making these changes, we've largely governed ourselves and that's not necessarily what the board was designed to do," she said. "So, we're looking at how we can bring in maybe an advisory committee or some other members that would be external to the Department of Health so that we can have input from the citizens and other community members about maybe the strategic direction of the Department of Health."

Alexander Ross does not expect departmental changes to impact patient care.

"While some of this change has been uncomfortable, I think it's going to leave us in a better position for the future," she said.

Suit

Continued from page 1

propane bottle too close to the house in violation of state and federal law.'

The documents state the propane company will no longer deliver propane to the property because the tank location violates state and federal regulations.

The documents state the mistake has and is currently causing Ingram extreme distress and lack of use and enjoyment of his property.

The complaint alleges that around March 18, Bucktrot breached the contract by canceling it with Ingram by phone call.

'Subsequent meetings in person between the parties have yielded the same result,' the complaint alleges.

The documents state that after experiencing issues with the home and a neighbor around 2015, Ingram requested assistance from Housing. The department allegedly had the property surveyed in February 2016 without the plaintiff's knowledge.

The complaint states that the completed survey conflicts with what Ingram and the neighbor have believed is the property line since the home was built, and that it was published with malice and ill-will toward the plaintiff.

"I've taken it to the housing director to do the right thing, and it obviously hasn't been done… the Indian way is to don't say nothing, let it go," Ingram said. "And we've got to say something because if I don't, if we don't, it's just going to pass on to our children and our grandkids."

The plaintiff is requesting damages of $150,000, interest on the amount from July 31 to the date of judgment, attorney fees and court costs.

Mvskoke Media requested a statement from MCN Public Relations regarding the case. PR Acting Director Geebon Gouge declined to comment citing ongoing litigation issues.

Fleet Services keeps MCN, citizens on the road



Gary FIfe/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Fleet Management employee Jon Deer.

Tribal mechanics expand services

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Fleet Services Management Department has the primary function of maintaining the over 500 vehicles owned and used by the tribe.

Fleet Manager Shane Holuby said that figure includes vehicles used by tribal community centers and business entities, which has added up to more than 800 work orders on MCN vehicles so far this fiscal year.

Holuby said their mission is to resolve mechanical problems with vehicles so employees have reliable workplace transportation. Those vehicles, he said, include everything from the tiny electric cars whizzing about the MCN Tribal Complex and Lighthorse Tribal Police Department patrol cars to highway-worthy semi trucks.

"It's really convenient to use our system when they need to check out a vehicle, whenever they need to do a transport, whether it is for Children and Family, Family Violence or one of those programs that may need us," he said. "They're almost always accessible to all departments."

He said they expanded their services to basic maintenance for private vehicles last year.

"We had seen that there were other areas in which we could benefit the citizens and employees of the tribe so we have gradually built on that. We started off with the oil changes last June," Holuby said. "That went pretty well, so we decided to get into a bit more for our citizens and employees."

He said they now offer services such as tire maintenance and windshield wiper blades.

Holuby said they do not do major jobs such as an engine overhauls, but always try to be of some help.

"At this time, we're just not equipped to do that sort of work on the vehicles. We might be able to help somebody out and take a look at it and diagnose," he said. "With my mechanics, they can point you in the right direction."

He said the department has worked on over 600 private vehicles to date.

During the Oklahoma summer heat, Holuby said their most popular offering is recharging car air conditioners.

He said the expansion of offerings is in response to citizen requests.

"The way we kind of built this is we talked and we listened to a lot of the people around campus and our citizens and our elders," Holuby said. "They asked me to look into it and I got with my staff."

He said their prices are reasonable and gave examples.

"The wheel alignments we do for $45. The price range at other places differs depending on the types of vehicles, but that's a set price for us," Holuby said. "Our A/C systems, it kind of goes by the ounce (of coolant) with a $5 minimum hook-up. If you were to bring your tires in from the outside, it'll be $12 to mount and balance."

Feedback from their patrons has been mostly favorable, but he said that is not always the case.

"There's been a couple times, you know, that there was something that we couldn't do because of the liability issues," Holuby said. "If we were to work on a part of the car and it was to break down or cause more problems, that is a little bit of a negative side, but everything else has been pretty positive."

Fleet can be contacted at: 918-549-2970.

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association
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Emvponayv

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ghosts and demons of war.

He was known as a strong keeper of their tribal traditions.

I usually dislike inserting the word, 'I,' into my writing but in this case, I will make an exception.

He once told me his thoughts on war in general and they have always stuck with me. I asked him about his service in the military and combat in Vietnam. He told me about his wish for peace and an end to war in one short, concise sentence, "We need to stop making veterans."

I only knew him briefly, but once, decades ago while I was producing 'National Native News,' I caught a glimpse of his sharp sense of humor when he invited me to the rez radio station to have a 'Fife and Drum' session but my schedule was kinda busy at the time.

Next time I see him, I'll make sure to have that session.

On the local scene, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has passed a resolution in support of the Standing Rock Sioux and their grassroots supporters against building the Dakota Access pipeline across their reservation.

The pipeline would run from North Dakota down to Illinois carrying heavy 'black tar' type oil.

The Standing Rock Tribe and hundreds of supporters have camped in the path of the pipeline and a couple dozen local horsemen have moved to block construction. They declared the pipeline would contaminate local water sources and cross over sacred sites.

The local county sheriff and governor of North Dakota have brought in their officers to remove the protesters. At one point, the project was stopped for a court hearing on the matter.

In late August, a resolution of support for the Sioux was introduced in the MCN National Council by Rep. Mark Randolph and co-sponsored by Rep. Dode Barnett.

That measure expressed concerns about environmental contamination from possible spills and the serious risk to burial grounds and sacred sites. Randolph said TR 16-140 passed unanimously.

Remember when President Barack Obama changed the name of the tallest mountain in North America from 'Mt. McKinley' to its original Athabascan name, 'Denali, The Great One?' (Ohio is still p.o.'d about that one!) Well, a similar change has happened in South Dakota.

The highest point east of the Rockies was once designated as 'Harney Peak' after Gen. William S. Harney who led a bloody campaign in 1855 against the Sioux.

In August, this year, a process began that would rename that mountain as 'Black Elk Peak.'

For any of us who read the book, 'Black Elk Speaks' you would remember the Oglala Lakota holy man, Black Elk referred to the mountain as the Center of the World for his tribe. Hoka Hey!

Here's one that makes me scratch my head.

'White House official reportedly gets in brawl with Native American student wearing R-skins jersey.'

There's a headline you won't see too often.

According to a number of news sources, this summer a Native American college student and the executive director of the White House Initiative of American Indian and Alaska Native Education allegedly got into a 'knock-down-drag-out' at a powwow in Disneyland-on-the Potomac, D.C., over the student's R-skins jersey.

Of course, each of them has their own account, but both say fists did fly.

Barrett Dahl of Oklahoma is of the Choctaw and Sac and Fox Nations and is autistic.

He said he wore an R-skins shirt because he, "sees it as a sense of cultural pride," according to D.C.'s 'News 9' reports.

Dahl said White House official William Mendoza approached him at the powwow and said the jersey was offensive.

Mendoza was unable to comment to 'News 9' directly but his lawyer said Mendoza approached Dahl because of the jersey, but he said it also had the words 'INJUN PIMP' written on the back.

Mendoza has worked to remove the use of Native American images as mascots, but maybe this went a little too far?

Anyway, both sides are lawyering up and will have their next battle in court.

I don't know, but when you work for the President, maybe you should be real careful about acting up in public?

- OK, Hvtvm Cehecares (I'll see you again).

Catch me in Otowoskv-Rakko (October).



School term paper addresses tribal land, tax questions

Can tribes tax communities in their jurisdictions?

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

Sterling Cosper/*Contributor*

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What if the City of Okmulgee had to abide by Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal law? What if the residents of Okmulgee had to pay not only federal, state and sales taxes, but also tribal taxes?

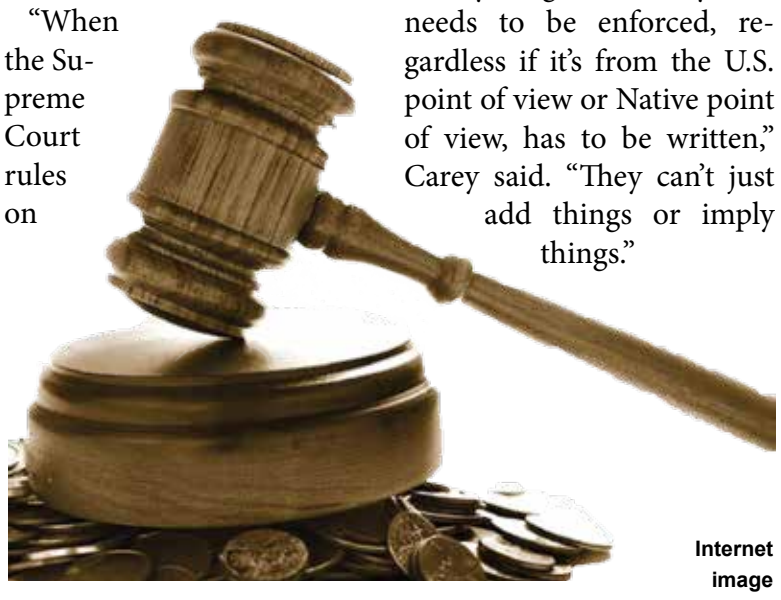
College of the Muscogee Nation student Jordan Brown addressed this issue in a paper for her CMN Indian land issues class.

According to 'Indian Country Today Media Network,' the U.S. Supreme Court Case Nebraska v. Parker involved a dispute regarding taxes between the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and the Village of Pender.

In 2006, the Omaha Tribal Council elected to tax liquor sales on their reservation, which includes Pender, Neb.

Pender disagreed with this and filed a lawsuit May 27, 2015 along with the State of Nebraska.

"When the Supreme Court rules on these cases, it actually sets precedents, meaning the next court case could go off of these rulings," Brown said.



Internet image

The 'ICTMN' article outlined the big question in the case, 'Were the reservation's boundaries diminished by the sale of land to Pender settlers?'

According to 'The Pender Times,' the village has spent more than $685,000 in appeals over the last eight years to argue that Pender was not part of the reservation.

However, three different courts—Omaha Tribal Court, the U.S. District Court and the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals—have all ruled in favor of the Omaha Tribe, affirming that Pender is within the boundaries of the reservation.

A similar issue that is closer to home involves the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the City of Shawnee. According to 'The Oklahoman,' a large part of the dispute involves $4 million in tax revenue that the city claims is owed by the tribe through sales at its FireLake Discount Foods grocery store.

How does all of this apply to MCN?

Brown's teacher, CMN History Instructor Waleila Carey said that the answer starts with MCN treaties.

"How it is interpreted on both sides," Carey said.

Brown researched treaties between the U.S. government and MCN for her paper.

"It stated within the tribe, the jurisdiction of Muscogee people, that they are going to set up towns and help the people make money," Brown said.

According to the Indian Land Tenure website, Congress declared that no further treaties would be made after 1871. Afterwards, several processes that changed over time were established to determine the status of Indian land.

Because of these processes, MCN and the Omaha Tribe have different jurisdictional arrangements, as the Omaha are on a traditional reservation and MCN shares much of its land with other governments as a relocated tribe.

Despite this, Carey believes if the MCN treaties are looked up, there can be some 'neglect' found on the part of the government in signing them.

"Anything in a treaty that needs to be enforced, regardless if it's from the U.S. point of view or Native point of view, has to be written," Carey said. "They can't just add things or imply things."

Carey said the Omaha Tribe's victory in the U.S. Supreme Court case through a defense based on treaties, affords an opportunity for other tribes to enforce their own, regardless of federal laws passed since they were signed.

"The implications, is opened, depending on what you are looking for," Carey said. "It is how to find them and using that language that they used to understand what they were signing."

Brown said this should apply to MCN.

"This is where Congress set the Muscogee people," Brown said. "They told them here is your land and that will be your land, your tribal jurisdiction."

Brown would like to do more research on the subject, especially on the towns within the MCN jurisdiction.

According to the 'Omaha World Herald,' the Omaha case only decided that Pender, Neb., is within the land boundaries of the tribe and not if they can impose taxes on the village.

An attorney for the village, Gene Summerlin estimated that more litigation would be coming regarding the dispute.



Submission

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council celebrated their one-year anniversary June 20.

Anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tegic Planning Session.

"Our program started in October of 2014… that was just one of the objectives that I had was to create a youth council," MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

According to the MCN website, the MNYS mission statement is to empower Mvskoke youth by connecting to culture, community and resources.

Mason said that MNYS considered public need, spoke with local youth and recruited members to create MNYC on June 20, 2015.

"They really wanted it to be just like the National Council when they first started planning it as far as the representatives from the different areas," Mason said. "They weren't able to do that at the time… how it works now is any young person ages 12-24 can be a member and they can live anywhere."

Mason said MNYC members have grown more confident over the past year and learned how to take charge of situations to host camps, classes and events.

She said they have logged hundreds of volunteer hours and recently lead the Mvskoke March for teen dating violence awareness in July.

The walk was also held to recognize the 40th anniversary of the United National Indian Tribal Youth organization, which has a mission similar to MNYC on a national scale. MNYC walked from the MCN Council House in Okmulgee to the Oklahoma State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City, covering approximately 110 miles in relay teams over a three-day period.

They ended the event with a rally at the capitol building and moved on to the annual UNITY conference in Oklahoma City, where they were recognized as Youth Council of the Year.

They have also established the Mvskoke Youth Awards, honoring four youth ages 12-24 through the Mvnettvlke Onaya (Youth Visionary) Award and four adults ages 25 and up through the Vculvlke Mvnettvlke Emvnicv (Old Who Helps the Young) Award.

The Mvnettvlke Onaya recipients were Jay Fife, Charles Mason, Maddie Lamb and Jadyn Williams.

"We recognized four young people who just have really done some outstanding leadership type activities over the last year," Mason said.

The Vculvke Mvnettvlke Emvnicv recipients were Monte Randall, Holly Dunn, Thomasine Fife and Rachael Sourjohn.

MNYC Secretary Jasmyne Jack said she has been with the youth council from its early stages to watch it progress over the past year.

"What I first expected was probably five to 10 people, just a group," Jack said.

Mason said MNYC now has six officers including: speaker, second speaker, treasurer, secretary, public relations and sergeant of arms as well as 39 active members.

Just a month after the youth council was established, Jack said she was given the opportunity to meet with President Barrack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama.

Jack said she has experienced personal growth through MNYC.

"I see a big change. I see myself helping people a lot more and just being more outspoken," Jack said. "Just do more positive things."

"I see a big change. I see myself helping people a lot more and just being more outspoken."

— Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Secretary Jasmyne Jack

According to the MCN website, MNYC meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building auditorium in Okmulgee. For more information, contact MNYS at: 918-549-2557, 'like' them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MvskokeYouth or follow them on Twitter @MvskokeYouth.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
IS NOW OFFERING:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
& SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS
OF DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

September 14, 2016 | 6:00PM-7:30PM

MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND

GROUP OVERVIEW:
Personal growth, recovery and healing are a lifelong journey. This monthly women's group offers safe paths to healing while also honoring individual and cultural integrity. The focus is on creative expression through arts/crafts and on building community with other women with similar trauma histories. The group also seeks to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence by learning about trauma with a holistic healing approach. Many survivors can be hesitant to receive individual therapy, therefore support groups that incorporate a focus on alternative holistic healing can be a doorway to beginning the healing process. Women need support to heal from trauma. Part of the process in healing from trauma is developing connection and support with others. Many women are recovering from their traumatic experiences, and this group provides a safe space to explore their thoughts and feelings at their own pace. Healing from trauma can be challenging and our hope is that through group participation it is filled with creative expression and support from women in the group and others in their life.

WHAT IT IS:
Making art or creating crafts in a variety of media including drawing, sculpting, beading, collage, basket weaving, sewing, etc.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:
Arts and crafts offer survivors the opportunity to express themselves, and relate aspects of their traumatic experience or healing process without having to use words. Additionally, arts and crafts can enhance skills of self-care, connection with others and a connection to their own body, mind, and spirit.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Family Violence Prevention Program
918.732.7979 | dcostello@mcn-nsn.gov

Drafted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had an injury in high school so I focused on pitching after that."

For college, Hill took his talents east to the Sun Belt Conference when he played for the University of South Alabama.

"I talked to OU, OSU but also West Virginia, University of Houston, Pittsburgh and there was a few others," he said.

Hill said he wanted to get out of Oklahoma for a bit and also wanted to play for their head coach, who was also the pitching coach for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks when they won the NCAA College World Series consecutively in 2010 and 2011.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to play underneath him," Hill said.

The two-time All-American is starting his MLB career with the Tri-City ValleyCats in Troy, NY, which is part of the Houston Astros farm system to develop young players.



"Now I have to keep working hard and make sure my pitches are working to the right spots. I am up against the best hitters who got drafted this year too."

Muscogee (Creek) pitcher Kevin Hill

"Now I have to keep working hard and make sure my pitches are working to the right spots. I am up against the best hitters who got drafted this year too," Hill said.

Hill said his team has a full daily schedule, starting around noon with stretching and practice. Afterwards, he said they grab some food and return for games.

"It is like that everyday," Hill said.

Hill did his interview with the 'Muscogee Nation News' during a two-day break for the All-Stars.

"Basically, I am laying around and sleep," Hill said jokingly.

Hill said he wants to bring his pitching arsenal up to MLB status.

"When I get back to spring training, I want to keep moving up (farm system)," Hill said.

Hill is a member of the Eco (Deer) Clan and his parents are Barney and Stacey Billie.

FRED THAYER



OKMUGLEE, Okla. — Fred Lee Thayer, age 76, passed away June 6, 2016 at Rebold Manor in Okmulgee.

Fred was born July 24, 1939 in Tulsa to Charles and Sarah Colbert Thayer.

He attended the University of Oklahoma and served in the Oklahoma National Guard for six years.

He was a manager of Locke Plumbing Supply Company and later owned his own private security company.

Preceding Fred in death were his: parents; wife, Judy; brother, Robert Thayer as well as a niece and nephew.

Fred is survived by his: sons, Freddie, Rocky and Charles Thayer; daughter, Dairah Thayer Copeland; sisters, Dorothy Thayer Parris and Betty Jean Thayer Larkin, 11 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren as well as a niece and many nephews.

Visitation was held June 9 at Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service.

Funeral services were June 10 at Schaudt's. Interment was at the Colbert Family Cemetery in Haskell.

Serving as pallbearers were: Rusty Green, Ryan Thayer, Colt Thayer, Brandon Thayer, Christopher Copeland and Larry Copeland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Concharty Methodist Church, 19040 Garfield Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447, phone number: 918-366-8450.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service, 719 East 141st Street, Glenpool, OK. Friends and family may leave condolences and view the obituary at: www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

WILLIS KNIGHT

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Minister Willis Woodrow Knight, age 90, died Aug. 19. Services were set Aug. 24 at Montesoma Indian Baptist Church in Okemah with burial at Montesoma Cemetery. Services were entrusted to Hart Funeral Home of Stilwell.

MNN Submission Deadlines

Sept. 15 — Sept. 7

Oct. 1 — Sept. 22

Oct. 15 — Oct. 6

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24

Nov. 15 — Nov. 7

Dec. 1 — Nov. 22

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

Jan. 1, 2017 — Dec. 20

MCN community calendar

OCMA election set for Sept. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set their board election for Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the OCMA office, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, at: 405-605-2621 Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Morris Community election set Sept. 8

MORRIS, Okla. — The Morris Indian Community has set an board of directors election for 6 p.m., Sept. 8 at the Morris Elementary School Cafeteria, 306 S. 5th St., Morris OK 74445.

For more information call Linda Tenequer at: 539-832-1876 or email: moric@mcn-nsn.gov. The regular MIC meeting is held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

Gospel singing set Sept. 10

OKEMAH, Okla. — Greenleaf Baptist Church has set their annual gospel singing for 7 p.m., Sept. 10 at the church.

The master of ceremonies will be Bob Buck.

Everyone is welcome and concessions will be made available.

Veteran benefit event set Sept. 10

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Stand Down for Homeless Veterans event has been set for 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sept. 10 at First United Methodist Church, 1115, S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119.

It is for veterans only to help provide them with health, food, clothing, employment and housing resources. Shuttle pick up is available.

For more information call Melanie Goldman at: 918-610-2047.

OIC election set for Sept. 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee Indian Community has set an officer election for 4-6 p.m., Sept. 12 at the community center in Okmulgee before the regular monthly meeting.

TCIC election set for Sept. 22

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132 has set an election for 6-8 p.m., Sept. 22 for the chairman, secretary and treasurer positions each of which consists of two-year terms that will begin Oct. 1, 2016 and end Sept. 30, 2018.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

John Berryhill, & Amy Randall Family reunion set Sept. 24

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The descendants of the John Berryhill and Amy Randall family have set a family reunion for 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sept. 24 at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta, just north of Wilson High School.

For more information call: 918-442-6380 or 918-619-2389.

Fall revival set Sept. 25-27

EUFAULA, Okla. — Okfuskee Baptist Church has set a fall revival that begins 7 p.m. nightly, Sept. 25-27.

For more information call Colbert Hill at: 918-490-9019.

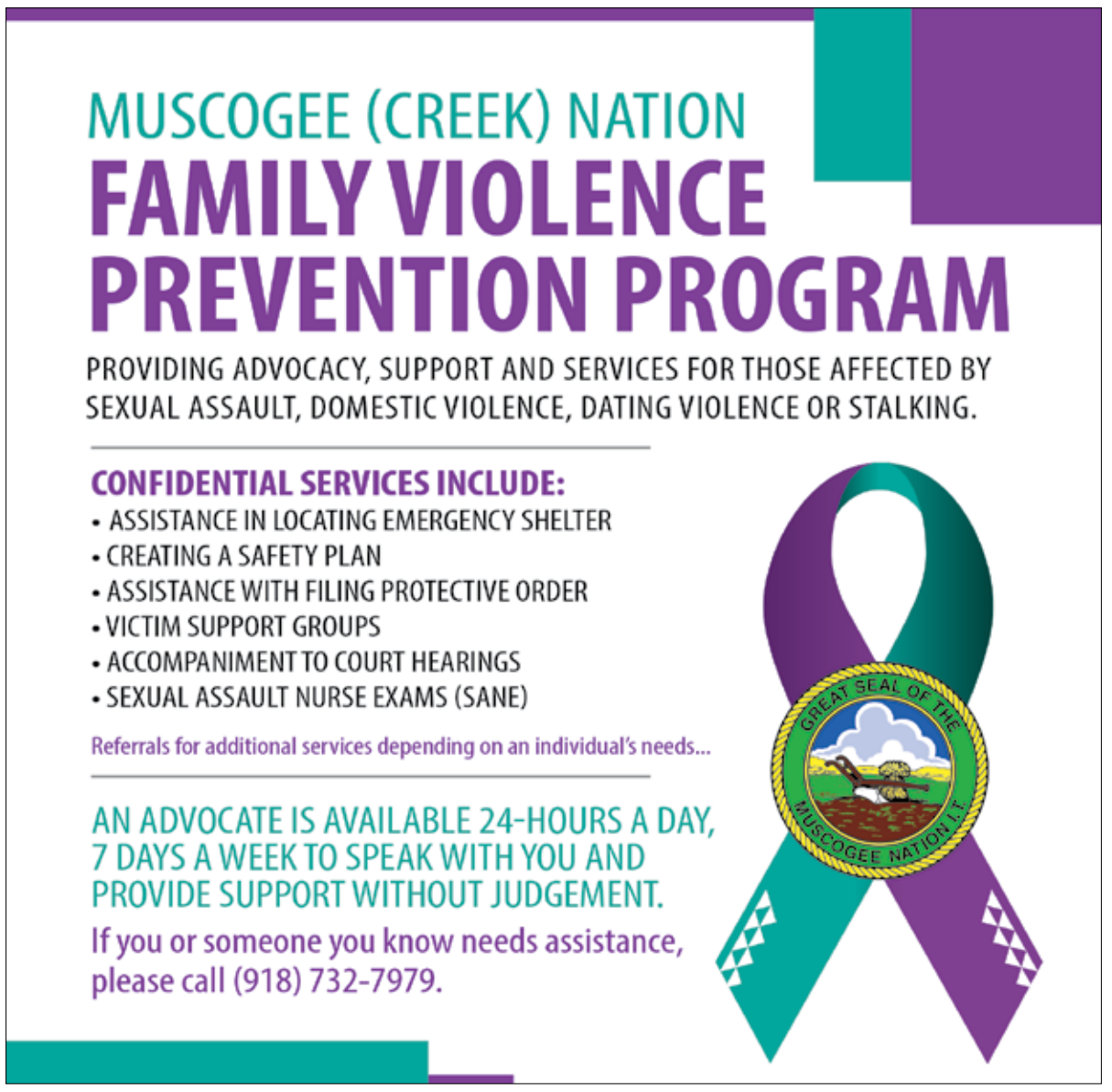


Springtown UMC revival set Oct. 2-4

COWETA, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church in Coweta has set a revival for Oct. 2-4, with Rev. Frank Little featured Oct. 2, Rev. Eli McHenry Oct. 3 and pastor Ray Samuel Oct. 4.

The event will start at 5 p.m., Oct. 2 when dinner will be served and 7 p.m., Oct. 3-4 with refreshments served.

For more information call: 918-270-0231.



NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - Executive Branch

NCA 89-048 PART A Report 07/15/2016

Executive Branch

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	PRINCIPAL CHIEF	FLOYD, JAMES R	SALARY	SALARY
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	SPAULDING, LUCY	SG 12	6-7
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	MAYHEW, WHITNEY	SG 12	4-5
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	DANEY, ANITA SUE	SG 12	3-4
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE	LOWE, MONA	SG 10	7-8
PRINCIPAL CHIEF	COMPLEX SECURITY	HARRY, CECIL	SG 10	6-7
SECOND CHIEF	SECOND CHIEF	HICKS, LOUIS	SALARY	SALARY
SECOND CHIEF	ASSISTANT TO SECOND CHIEF	ANDERSON, LINDSEY	SG 13	5-6
SECOND CHIEF	SECRETARY III	SMITH, WHITNEY	SG 12	4-5
SECRETARY OF THE NATION	ACTING SECRETARY OF THE NATION	BLUE, JOHNNY	MG 8	3-4
SECRETARY OF THE NATION	COUNSELOR	WIND, RUSSELL DAVID	SG 11	6-7
SECRETARY OF THE NATION	PROJECT COORDINATOR	FOX, EMERY S	SG 10	6-7
SECRETARY OF THE NATION	PROJECT COORDINATOR	WHITECLOUD, THUNDER	SG 11	2-3
SECRETARY OF THE NATION	OFFICE MANAGER	BEAR, TANIA	SG 09	9-10
PUBLIC RELATIONS	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS	GOUGE, THOMPSON	MG 9	1
PUBLIC RELATIONS	WEB DESIGNER	RUTLAND, AMANDA	SG 13	3
PUBLIC RELATIONS	PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	ABBOTT, KENNETH MARK	SG 12	5-6
PUBLIC RELATIONS	PROJECT SPECIALIST	BEAR, LUANN	SG 12	3-4
PUBLIC RELATIONS	MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST	RYAL, KACIE NICOLE	SG 12	1-2
PUBLIC RELATIONS	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	MONAHWEE, LATASHA SUE	SG 10	6
TOURISM/RECREATION	ACTING DIRECTOR	ONTHEHILL, BRIAN	MG 9	2
TOURISM/RECREATION	OFFICE MANAGER	LOGAN, RYAN	SG 13	9-10
TOURISM/RECREATION	RECREATIONAL COORDINATOR	JOHNSON, ROJER	SG 13	6-7
TOURISM/RECREATION	MARKETING COORDINATOR	TIGER, CARMEN	SG 12	7-8
TOURISM/RECREATION	FACILTIES OPERATOR	SANDS, MIKE	SG 12	5-6
TOURISM/RECREATION	MAINTENANCE WORKER	TIGER, CHRISTOPHER	SG 09	9-10
TOURISM/RECREATION	MAINTENANCE WORKER	HICKS, JOSEPH	SG 08	4-5
TOURISM/RECREATION	RECREATIONAL AIDE	FRANK, JALEN A	SG 06	3
TOURISM/RECREATION	RECREATIONAL AIDE	SPARKS, BRIDGETT	SG 06	3
TOURISM/RECREATION	RECREATIONAL AIDE	DAVIDSON-SIMMONS, DAMON C	SG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	GENERAL MANAGER	WOOD, MICHAEL	MG 6	8-9
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT	PATTERSON, LARRY	SG 09	6-7
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	KAULAY, GEOFFREY	SG 08	4-5
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	MAINTENANCE	BARNETT, BARRY	SG 06	5-6
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	COOK AIDE	WINTERS, NANCY	SG 7	1-2
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	CART BARN TECHNICIAN	ALVORD, RACHEL	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	CART BARN TECHNICIAN	FLINN, KENLEY M	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	CART BARN TECHNICIAN	KAULAY, JOSHUA	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	CART BARN TECHNICIAN	BERRYHILL, TAYLOR E.	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	DRIVING RANGE/CARTBARN	WALKER, JIMMY	HG 6	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	MAINTENANCE TECH	KAULAY, NOAH B	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	MAINTENANCE WORKER	WRIGHT, JOHNNY	HG 06	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	PRO SHOP CLERK	HOLSTEN, LYNDA	HG 6	3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	CART BARN TECHNICIAN	SMITH, JAMES	HG 06	3
VETERANS AFFAIRS	DIRECTOR OF VETERAN AFFAIRS	DAVIS, KEN	MG 10	5-6
VETERANS AFFAIRS	OPERATIONS OFFICER	TARYOLE, SHAWN	SG 13	8-9
VETERANS AFFAIRS	OPERATIONS OFFICER	DICKERSON, CHELSIE	SG 12	4-5

OFFICE OF TREASURY

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	CONTROLLER	BOOKER, RUBY	MG 11	2-3
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ASSISTANT CONTROLLER/FINANCE	GUTHRIE, KATHRYN LOUISE	MG 11	3-4
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/ACCOUNTING	VEGA, MARCUS	MG 9	6-7
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	MANAGER	LOWE, REGINA	MG 8	6-7
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	GENERAL LEDGER ACCOUNTANT	HARJO, KENNETH G	SG 15	4-5
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	PROCUREMENT MANAGER	LEWIS, LISA	SG 13	7-8
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	FINANCE OFFICER	WAKEFORD, MARCY	SG 13	5-6
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTANT	KILIAN, PATRICIA	MG 9	1-2
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	STAFF ACCOUNTANT	HICKS, KASSIDY	SG 13	5
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	STAFF ACCOUNTANT	WATTERS, JENNIFER	SG 13	5
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTANT	WILLIAMS, VALERIE	SG 13	2-3
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST	SANDERS, MELISSA	SG 11	8-9
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	PAYROLL SPECIALIST	LEWIS, NADINE	SG 11	6
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	TRAVEL COORDINATOR	LOWE, SHARON	SG 10	10
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST	BUTLER, RAYNA	SG 11	3
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	HOLLADAY, ROBERT	SG 10	6-7
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN	GRAMMER, LORIE	SG 10	6
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	GOURD, SONJA	SG 10	3-4
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	LEAD TRIBAL CASHIER/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	JOHNSON, MONIQUE	SG 09	7-8
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	SUTTON, STEPHANIE	SG 09	7-8
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	LEMONS, ANGELA	SG 10	3-4
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	DEERE, ROBBY	SG 10	3-4
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	MCCOSAR, ALEXANDER	SG 10	3-4
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	TRAVEL COORDINATOR	MANNS, DEBORAH	SG 10	1-2
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	TRIBAL CASHIER	TANSEY, LULA	SG 08	7-8

OFFICE OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR	TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR	HAUMPY, JUDY	MG 11	8-9
TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	HICKS, BELINDA	SG 11	6-7
HUMAN RESOURCES	MANAGER HUMAN RESOURCES	HUGHES, DEAN	MG 8	8-9
HUMAN RESOURCES	STAFFING COORDINATOR	SUITER-GAYER, SANDRA	SG 11	9-10
HUMAN RESOURCES	FRINGE BENEFITS COORDINATOR	HAWKINS, KIMBERLY	SG 11	9-10
HUMAN RESOURCES	LABOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR	CULLEY, MELISSA	SG 11	8-9
HUMAN RESOURCES	PERSONNEL SPECIALSIT II	WALKER, GREG	SG 11	6-7
HUMAN RESOURCES	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COORDINATOR II	WILSON, DANIEL	SG 11	6-7
HUMAN RESOURCES	PERSONNEL SPECIALSIT II	SMITH, KATHERINE	SG 10	7-8
HUMAN RESOURCES	RECORDS SPECIALIST	CHARLES, SANDRA	SG 10	6-7
GSA/FACILITIES	MANAGER FACILITIES/GSA	DOWDY, WILLIAM	MG 6	7-8
FACILITIES	FACILITIES SUPERVISOR	ROBERTS, DANNY	MG 4	4-5
FACILITIES	LEAD CARPENTER	GIPSON, ROBERT	SG 10	4-5
FACILITIES	HVAC TECHNICIAN	CROSBY, CHARLES	SG 10	4-5
FACILITIES	HVAC TECHNICIAN	CUNNINGHAM, ERIC	SG 10	3-4
FACILITIES	CARPENTER	BEEBE, RANDALL	SG 09	6-7
FACILITIES	PLUMBER	BAKER, SILAS	SG 10	2-3
FACILITIES	BUILDING TECHNICIAN	DEERE, ROBBY	SG 09	5-6
FACILITIES	SECRETARY II	BIGPOND, JANICE	SG 09	5-6
FACILITIES	LANDSCAPE SPECIALIST	HICKS, TY	SG 09	4-5
FACILITIES	NIGHT SUPERVISOR	RABBIT, GERALD	SG 09	4-5
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN II	GOLIGHTLY, KENNETH	SG 09	2-3
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE TECH	LEE, ROCKY	SG 09	2-3
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE TECH	LEE, WILLIAM	SG 08	4-5
FACILITIES	DAY JANITOR	FRANCIS, ANGELA	SG 7	6-7
FACILITIES	DAY JANITOR	FORD, TAMMY	SG 08	2-3
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE WORKER II	HARJO, MICHAEL K	SG 08	2-3
FACILITIES	CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE WORKER	DENNIS, BRANDON WAYNE	SG 07	4-5
FACILITIES	ALTERNATE RELIEF TECHNICIAN	MCNAC, NORMAN	SG 7	4-5
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE WORKER	COX, BRAYDEN D	SG 06	6-7
FACILITIES	NIGHT JANITOR	ROBERTS, JERRY	SG 6	6-7
FACILITIES	MAINTENANCE WORKER II	BERRYHILL, GREGORY	SG 07	2-3
FACILITIES	NIGHT JANITOR	HICKS, JUSTIN	SG 6	6-7
FACILITIES	PBX OPERATOR	WATSON, JULIAN	SG 6	4-5
FACILITIES	NIGHT JANITOR	TAYLOR, EDDIE	SG 06	4-5
FACILITIES	PBX OPERATOR	GIPSON, CHRISTEN	SG 6	4-5
FACILITIES	PBX OPERATOR	WISE, ZACHERY J	SG 06	4-5
FACILITIES	NIGHT JANITOR	FRANK, WARREN K	SG 06	4
FACILITIES	NIGHT JANITOR	TULSA, FRIEDA MAE	SG 06	4
GSA	ASSISTANT MANAGER	BIBLE, DENNIS	MG 4	4-5
GSA	SRD CONTROLLER	O'NEAL, GARRETT	SG 09	2-3
GSA	INVENTORY CONTROLLER	BEEBE, JUSTIN MACK	SG 08	5-6
GSA	MAIL SPECIALIST	LAY, KRISTEN	SG 08	4-5
GSA	WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR	COLLINS, SHAUN	SG 08	2-3
TELEPHONY	TELEPHONY SUPERVISOR	TAMAGE, THEODORE	SG 12	4-5
TELEPHONY	TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN	DUNN, HADEN	SG 11	7-8
TELEPHONY	TELEPHONY COORDINATOR	DUNN, LAURA	SG 10	4-5
FLEET	MANAGER FLEET	HOLUBY, SHANE	MG 4	4-5
FLEET	FLEET MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	SIMONS, LAURA	SG 10	4-5
FLEET	MECHANIC	DEERE, JONATHAN	SG 9	3-4
FLEET	MECHANIC	HULBUTTA, JONAH W	SG 09	2
FLEET	VEHICLE SERVICE TECHNICIAN	POWELL, DEREK	SG 08	5-6
FLEET	FLEET MANAGEMENT CLERK	GOLIGHTLY, CYNTHIA	SG 07	8
FLEET	VEHICLE SERVICE TECHNICIAN	FOGLE, ZACKERY	SG 08	4
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	MANAGER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	FREILING, CYNTHIA	MG 9	3-4
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR	FAIR, SARA ELIZABETH	SG 14	6
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR	BRUTON, LONNIE	SG 14	3-4
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	IT PROJECT MANAGER	RIVERA, PATRICK SCOTT	SG 12	8-9
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II	WEST, BARBARA	SG 11	7-8
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II	LUSTY, JOHN	SG 12	2-3
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	APPLICATION SUPPORT ANALYST	ROCK, SONYA	SG 12	2-3
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	APPLICATION SUPPORT ANALYST	FITTS, MICHELLE R	SG 11	4-5
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II	PROCTOR, VINCE	SG 09	9-10
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	TECUMSEH, LOUISE	SG 09	5-6
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN	OGLE, DEVIN	SG 09	5-6
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II	CROWELS, AMOS	SG 09	5-6

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
EDUCATION/TRAINING	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING	ANDERSON, GREGORY	MG 11	6-7
EDUCATION/TRAINING	PROJECT COORDINATOR	PRICE, SARAH RENEE	SG 14	3-4
EDUCATION/TRAINING	EDUCATION SPECIALIST	JAMERSON, TAMMY	SG 11	5-6
EDUCATION/TRAINING	EDUCATION SPECIALIST	SOAP, LAURISA M	SG 11	5
EDUCATION/TRAINING	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	FIELDS, APRIL D	SG 08	6
EDUCATION/TRAINING	RECEPTIONIST	WAHNEE, REBECCA A	SG 06	3
JOM	MANAGER JOM	KEITH, REGINA	MG 6	5-6
JOM	FIELD SPECIALIST	PROCTOR, BILLY	SG 8	9-10
JOM	FIELD SPECIALIST	NEAL, PENNY N	SG 09	5
JOM	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	FISH, TERRY	SG 08	9
JOM	DATA CLERK	FRANK, LESLEY M	SG 08	6
EUFAULA DORM	ADMINISTRATOR	VACANT		
EUFAULA DORM	OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	LEE, NORMA	SG 10	8-9
EUFAULA DORM	DORMITORY/RECREATIONAL MANAGER	HAYES, MICHAEL	SG 10	6-7
EUFAULA DORM	OFFICE MANAGER	BURNHAM, FRANCILE	SG 10	5
EUFAULA DORM	MAINTENANCE FOREMAN	COLBERT, KENNETH	SG 09	5-6
EUFAULA DORM	LIBRARIAN/ED TUTOR/IT	POE, JEFFREY	SG 09	5-6
EUFAULA DORM	LEAD EDUCATIONAL AIDE/TRANSPORTATION COORD	HIGGINS, JONAS	SG 09	4-5
EUFAULA DORM	LEAD EDUCATIONAL AIDE	FEELING, STELLA	SG 09	2-3
EUFAULA DORM	HEAD COOK	COWGILL, DARRELL	SG 08	5-6
EUFAULA DORM	HEALTH COORDINATOR	HARRIS, SUE	SG 07	5
EUFAULA DORM	EDUCATIONAL AIDE	FEELING, MARY	SG 07	4-5
EUFAULA DORM	MAINTENANCE WORKER	HENRY, CHUCK	SG 07	3
EUFAULA DORM	EDUCATIONAL AIDES	FURLOUGH		
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING MANAGER	JOSIE, COURTNEY	MG 8	7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	DUNN, BARBARA	SG 10	9
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	MCBEE, JESSINNA	SG 10	8
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	CAREER SPECIALIST	MARTEL, KIMBERLY	SG 09	9-10
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	CAREER SPECIALIST	MCGIRT, DEBORAH	SG 09	7-8
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR	ROSS, VICTORIA	SG 10	1
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALIST	BRIGGS, LUCILLE	SG 09	5
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	YOUTH SPECIALIST	BERT, BRIGHAM J	SG 08	3
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	INTAKE SPECIALIST	TAYLOR, KATHY	SG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	RECEPTIONIST	FACTOR, CHARLENE R	SG 06	3
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	TOPPAH, ALLEN H	HG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	HUNNICUTT, JENNY L	HG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	MCGERTT, JACQUE	HG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	BRONCHO, SHANNON	HG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	JONES, RENEE	HG 06	6-7
EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	SUMMER YOUTH COUNSELOR	GLOVER, LISA A	HG 06	6-7
HIGHER EDUCATION	MANAGER HIGHER EDUCATION	COSER JR., PETE R	MG 5	10
HIGHER EDUCATION	SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER	ON-THE-HILL, JERRIE	SG 13	4-5
HIGHER EDUCATION	POST GRAD SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR	DURDEN, CHRISTINE	SG 10	3-4
HIGHER EDUCATION	GRANT COORDINATOR II	LEWIS, KANDRA	SG 7	7
HIGHER EDUCATION	GRANT COORDINATOR II	LOWE, JESSICA	SG 7	5-6
REINTEGRATION	MANAGER REINTERGRATION	FISH, TONY	MG 7	8
REINTEGRATION	BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	GREEN, KEITH	SG 11	9
REINTEGRATION	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	WYATT, CARRIE	SG 11	8-9
REINTEGRATION	YOUTH SPECIALIST	BRUNER, ASHLEY	SG 11	7-8
REINTEGRATION	CASE WORKER	WILLIAMS, SPRINT	SG 11	6-7
REINTEGRATION	GRANT COORDINATOR	BLANSETT, TONYA LYNN	SG 11	5-6
REINTEGRATION	PROJECT COORDINATOR	GREEN, KEVIN	SG 11	4-5
REINTEGRATION	CASE WORKER	FRANK, FLORENCE	SG 11	4-5
REINTEGRATION	BUILDING MAINTENANCE LABORER	HICKS, JOSEPH HOUSTON	SG 10	7-8
REINTEGRATION	YOUTH ADVOCATE	THOMPSON, DAWN	SG 10	6-7
REINTEGRATION	CASE WORKER	BATTENFIELD, ANITA PAHSETOPAH	SG 11	2-3
REINTEGRATION	VAN DRIVER	WALLS, BRIAN S	SG 10	4-5
REINTEGRATION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	LEWIS, CARESSA	SG 09	6-7
REINTEGRATION	CASE AIDE	GILLEY, TASHINA	SG 09	5-6
REINTEGRATION	CASE AIDE	HARJO, MARK A	SG 09	4-5
REINTEGRATION	RECEPTIONIST	SMITH, DANYELLE N	SG 09	3-4
REINTEGRATION		GOODEN, DONALD W	HG 06	3
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	MANAGER LANGUAGE	DEERE, CHUMONA	MG 5	1
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	MONTIEL, JUDY	SG 10	8
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	GRAPHIC DESIGNER	BARNETT, BRANDON E	HG 06	3
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	LANGUAGE TEACHER	HICKS, GRACINE	SG 09	7-8
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	LANGUAGE TEACHER	HARJO, PHILLIP	SG 09	6-7
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	LANGUAGE TEACHER	BARNETT, REBECCA	SG 09	4-5
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION	CLERICAL ASSISTANT	MARTIN, ANTHONY	SG 06	3
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	MANAGER EUCHEE LANGUAGE	REVIS, LESTER BRUCE	SG 10	7
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	SPENCER, YONEY EVANS	SG 10	5
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	LANGUAGE TEACHER	CARGIL, CURTIS EUGENE	SG 08	7
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	LANGUAGE TEACHER	BROWN, JEANICE	SG 08	1
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER	CARGIL, ANTHONY JAMES	SG 06	3
EUCHEE LANGUAGE	ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER	WILSON, TAMARA N	SG 06	3
HEAD START	MANAGER HEAD START	CAMREN, CORA	MG 5	6
HEAD START	TRANSPORTATION/FACILITY COORDINATOR	SMITH, DAVID	SG 09	8
HEAD START	PARENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SPECIALIST	SIMPSON, AMBER	SG 09	8
HEAD START	NUTRITION, DISIBILITY/MENTAL SPECIALIST	SMITH, BETTY	SG 09	6
HEAD START	EDUCATION SPECIALIST	DURRETT, AMANDA	SG 10	1-2
HEAD START	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	MCDANIEL, RUTH JESSICA	SG 09	5
HEAD START	HEALTH COORDINATOR	WELLS, DANA	SG 09	5
HEAD START	CENTER SUPERVISOR EUFAULA	HOWARD-CLAYTON, TERESA	SG 08	7-8
HEAD START	ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	JENNINGS, TERESA	SG 09	2-3
HEAD START	CENTER SUPERVISOR CHECOTAH	MESSER, LOU	SG 08	5-6
HEAD START	CENTER SUPERVISOR OKEMAH	WALKER, LORETTA	SG 08	5-6
HEAD START	CENTER SUPERVISOR TULSA	BRUNER, CHERYL	SG 08	3-4
HEAD START	CENTER SUPERVISOR OKMULGEE	SAWVEL, LAURA	SG 08	3-4
HEAD START	BUS DRIVER/MAINTENANCE	FIXICO, ALLEN	SG 6	8
HEAD START	BUS DRIVER/CUSTODIAN	FISH, ANTHONY	SG 6	6-7
HEAD START	FAMILY SERVICE WORKER	JONES, AMANDA	SG 06	5
HEAD START	FAMILY SERVICE WORKER	TAYLOR, TAMMY	SG 6	4-5
HEAD START	FAMILY SERVICE WORKER	OWENS, APRIL	SG 6	4-5
HEAD START	BUS DRIVER/CUSTODIAN	BRADY, SEAN	SG 6	4-5
HEAD START	BUS DRIVER/CUSTODIAN	LEWIS, MICHAEL	SG 06	4-5
HEAD START	BUS DRIVER/CUSTODIAN	BLAIR, WILLIAM D	HG 06	4-5
HEAD START	FAMILY SERVICE WORKER	JEFFREY, MARCUS D	SG 06	3-4
HEAD START	MASTER TEACHERS/TEACHERS/TEACHERS AIDES	FURLOUGH		
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR	COSER, PETE	MG 9	7-8
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	KILIAN, JENNIFER M	SG 11	1-2
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	BARNETT, NATHAN	SG 10	3-4
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	ASSISTANT SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR	DRINNON, SERENA	SG 09	3
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	GRANT COORDINATOR	BURGESS, AMBER	SG 06	3-4
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	GRANT COORDINATOR	RUDD, CARMON K	SG 06	3-4
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	GRANT COORDINATOR	BROWN, HEATHER DAWN	SG 06	3-4
TERO	MANAGER TERO	OVERACKER, JONATHAN LEE	MG 11	2-3
TERO	COMPLIANCE MONITOR	STACY, ANDREW	SG 10	3-4
TERO	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	DAGENET, HOLLY F	SG 10	1-2
TERO	SECRETARY	HARJO, KRISTIE SALLIE	SG 07	1-2
TERO	GENERAL LABORER	ALEXANDER, CARA	HG 07	6-7
TERO	GENERAL LABORER	TAYLOR, ASHTON	HG 07	6-7
TERO	GENERAL LABORER	ROCK, SHANE A	HG 07	6-7
TERO	GENERAL LABORER	HOWELL, RODGELL	HG 07	6-7

SECRETARY OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES	SECRETARY OF COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES	TIGER, NEENAH	MG 9	7-8
COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES	DIRECTOR	HONAWA, DENISE	MG 7	2-3
COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES	OFFICE ASSISTANT	HICKS, ROBIN K	HG 07	1
YOUTH SERVICES	DIRECTOR OF YOUTH SERVICES	MASON, NANCY	MG 6	6-7
YOUTH SERVICES	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	THOMPSON, CASSANDRA	SG 08	9-10
YOUTH SERVICES	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	SOURJOHN, RACHAEL	SG 08	6-7
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	DIRECTOR OF F.V.P.	PARTRIDGE, SHAWN	MG 7	4-5
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	PROGRAM COORDINATOR/VICTIM ADVOCATE	BARDIN, TANIA	SG 12	5-6
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	CHILD ADVOCATE	POLK, CRYSTAL	SG 10	9-10
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVOCATE	POPE, MITZI	SG 11	4-5
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	MERCER, CYNTHIA	SG 10	5-6
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	COX, NYSSA M	SG 10	4-5
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	DEERE-YARGEE, LESAH	SG 10	3-4
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	BUCHANAN, SHANNON D	SG 10	3-4
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	YOUTH ADVOCATE	KELLEY, KATIE	SG 10	3-4
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	JAMES, MORGAN	SG 10	3-4
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	MCGIRT, CHARLENE R	SG 10	3-4
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	VICTIM ADVOCATE	MCCALL, ALLISON E	SG 10	2-3
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	OFFICE MANAGER	COSTELLO, DENA LYNN	SG 10	1-2
ELDERLY NUTRITION	ACTING DIRECTOR OF ELDERLY NUTRITION	LINDSEY, WYIQUITA	MG 7	1-2
ELDERLY NUTRITION	PROGRAM MANAGER	PETREE, JOANNA	SG 11	2-3
ELDERLY NUTRITION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	FIELDS, ANGELA	SG 10	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	LEAD COOK SUPERVISOR	FARRELL, JANA	SG 10	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	SUPERVISOR	AHAISSE, TAKOCHE	SG 08	7-8
ELDERLY NUTRITION	MAINTENANCE TECH	MCNAC, ERIC	SG 7	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	JONES, ELIZABETH	SG 7	7-8
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	LOWE, LIZZIE	SG 7	7-8
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	LONG, SIDNEY	SG 7	7-8
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	DYER, LILLY	SG 7	7
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	LONG, NANCY	SG 6	9-10
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	MARSHALL, MANUEL	SG 7	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	BAILEY, MARY	SG 06	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	VAUGHN, BRIAN	SG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	ALLEN, KENDELL	SG 7	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	GAMBLER, MAXINE	SG 7	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	WEST, KATHERINE	SG 7	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	JONES, TAMMY A	SG 06	6-7
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	SOWEKA, BONNIE	SG 6	7-8
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	CASEY, CYNTHIA B	SG 07	2-3
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	TIGER, BERYL	SG 7	2-3
ELDERLY NUTRITION	ROVING COOK	FISH, SYLVIA	SG 6	6-7
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	JONES, JACKIE	SG 6	5-6
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	PIPPIN, MARY	SG 6	5-6
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	SIMS ZAMORA, TONI LEE	SG 06	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	HEAD COOK	HAUSE, TEAUNA	SG 06	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	JOHNSON, AMANDA	SG 6	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	COPELAND, DARLA	SG 6	4-5
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	TIGER, JONATHAN	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	LEWIS, CHIPPIE	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	BARNETT, MILLICENT	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	COOK AIDE	HILL, GRACINE	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	CRAWFORD, JOSEPH	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	WALTERS, MARY	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	SANDS, JEANNIE	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	ESKAMIRE, PAMELA	HG 6	8-9
ELDERLY NUTRITION	VAN DRIVER	CHOTKEY, JASON	HG 6	8-9
WIC	DIRECTOR OF WIC	BUNNER, KATURA	MG 6	4-5
WIC	NUTRITION COORDINATOR	FOX, CONNIE	SG 13	8-9
WIC	VENDOR COORDINATOR	FISHER, JOANNA	SG 10	6-7
WIC	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	COLBERT, CINDY	SG 10	5-6
WIC	CLINIC COORDINATOR	BEEN, TARA	SG 08	10
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	WHITTENBERG, TIFFANY R	SG 06	8-9
WIC	NUTRITION SPECIALIST	DUGGINS, JOHNNIE	SG 06	8-9
WIC	BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELOR	FISH, DARLA	SG 06	6-7
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	TRAIL, MARY	SG 6	6-7
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	SUMKA, LORETTA	SG 06	6-7
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	WALLACE, MISTY J VON	SG 06	5
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	TIGER, MARY R	SG 06	4-5
WIC	NUTRITION ASSISTANT	TALTON, STEPHANIE LORAINE	SG 06	4-5
SRO	SITE COORDINATOR	NUNNALLY, ANGIENETTE L	SG 09	5-6
SOCIAL SERVICES	SOCIAL WORKER	LONG, TONYA	SG 10	1
SOCIAL SERVICES	INTAKE SPECIALIST	CAMPBELL, KATRINA MARIE	SG 09	4-5
SOCIAL SERVICES	INTAKE SPECIALIST	BEARBOW, RHEA DEAN	SG 09	4-5
SOCIAL SERVICES	INTAKE SPECIALIST	WESLEY, PAULA J	SG 09	1
SOCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE CLERK II	SOWEKA, SHABON R	SG 07	5-6
SOCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE CLERK	FIELDS, ANDREA	SG 7	5-6
SOCIAL SERVICES	RECEPTIONIST	HARJO, CONNIE	SG 7	5-6
SOCIAL SERVICES	RECEPTIONIST	DELAUNE, GEORGEANN	SG 06	9
SOCIAL SERVICES	RECEPTIONIST	TIGER, TAYLOR R	SG 07	1-2
SOCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE ASSISTANT	HILL, AUDREY ALETA	SG 07	1
SOCIAL SERVICES	CASE MANAGER	FARRIS, LOTTIE	HG 09	5-6
SOCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE CLERK	THOMPSON, ARIELLE	HG 06	3
SOCIAL SECURITY	MANAGER SOCIAL SECURITY	THOMAS, LILLIAN	SG 10	9-10
SOCIAL SECURITY	CASE MANAGER	BURGESS, TINA	SG 10	3-4
SOCIAL SECURITY	OFFICE MANAGER	BEAVER, TERRA	SG 9	1-2
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	DIRECTOR	VACANT		
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF PROGRAM MANAGER	ELLIS, STEPHANIE	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PROGRAM MANAGER	DUNN, HOLLY	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	TJJ PROGRAM MANAGER	MCINTOSH, SA-TAE	SG 12	6-7
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	A.G. & P. C. PROGRAM MANAGER	MCINTOSH, JESSICA	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	CPS PROGRAM MANAGER	BUTLER, DAWN	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	RCP PROGRAM MANAGER	WIND, ROBYN	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS PROGRAM MANAGER	BRENNAN, SEQUOIA	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS PROGRAM MANAGER	WIND-HUMMINGBIRD, KIMEE	SG 13	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	TRS CASEWORKER III	BAKER, REBECCA	SG 12	6-7
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASEWORKER III	LITTLE, SHANNON	SG 11	4-5
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASEWORKER III	MCPERRYMAN, MELODY	SG 11	4-5
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF CASEWORKER III	MCGERTT, CAROL	SG 11	4-5
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASE WORKER	WAHNEE, STEVEN	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASE WORKER	SMITH, DANIEL C	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF CASEWORKER	MCINTOSH, JOSEPH AMOS	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	TRIBAL JUVENILE JUSTICE CASE WORKER	WISNER-RANDLEMAN, JESSICA D	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	WELCH, APRIL	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	ICW CASEWORKER II (TRS)	DENNIS, BEVERLY	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	CHILD PROTECTION WORKER II	JOHNSON, CHRISTA	SG 11	3-4
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF CASEWORKER II	DUVALL, MARTHA	SG 10	7-8
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF CASEWORKER	SISCO, BELINDA	SG 11	3

NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - Executive Branch

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	RCP CASE WORKER	SMITH, CYNTHIA	SG 11	3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	CHILD PROTECTION WORKER	QUIMBY, DEANA R	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	A.G. & P.C.CASE WORKER	GRIFFIN, HOLLIS H	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASE WORKER	GEORGE, JENNIFER E	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	RCP CASE WORKER	BENDER, MICHELLE	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	A.G. & P.C.CASE WORKER	BEAR, MELISSA	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	A.G. & P.C.CASE WORKER	BEVENUE, ALFRED	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	SRS CASE WORKER II	CHILES II, WINFRED	SG 11	2-3
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	ADULT PROTECTION SPECIALSIT	CARNES, KAREN A	SG 10	6-7
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	TRANTHAM, JULIE	SG 10	4-5
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	RECEPTIONIST	JIMBOY, DEBORA ANN	SG 10	1-2
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	PSSF CASE AIDE	HARJO, ERIKA	SG 10	1-2
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	ICW CASE AIDE (TRC)	PROCTOR, SHEENA	SG 10	1-2
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	INTAKE SPECIALIST	GOULD, DONNA	SG 10	1-2
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	DIRECTOR	VACANT		
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	PROGRAM MANAGER	BILLIE, DIANNA	SG 12	5
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	FINANCIAL SPECIALIST	COACHMAN, PATRICIA M	SG 12	1-2
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	FIELD SPECIALIST	MORGAN, TREVOR	SG 10	4-5
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	COMMUNITY TRAINING COORDINATOR	ANDERSON, RICHARD V	SG 10	2-3
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	MAINTENANCE WORKER	ZAMORA, LUIS FERNANDO	SG 08	4-5
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	MAINTENANCE WORKER II	WOODFORK, CONRAD RAYNARD	SG 08	4-5
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN II	HARJOCHEE, PAUL	SG 07	4-5
COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	OFFICE CLERK	FRANK, PATSY	SG 7	4
TANF	COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR	AUTRY, TOLISSA	SG 11	9-10
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR	GROGAN, NICOLE	SG 11	8
TANF	PROGRAM MANAGER	PENDERGRASS, MARK	SG 12	3
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	SMITH, DAVID	SG 11	4-5
TANF	YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR	RANDALL, LAUREN	SG 11	2
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	STONE, AMY	SG 10	3-4
TANF	INTAKE SPECIALIST	PROCTOR, BILLIE C	SG 09	5-6
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	JOHNSON, LEONA	SG 10	1
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	PEIFFER, LAURA	SG 10	1
TANF	PROGRAM SPECIALIST	BEAR, NICHOLE	SG 09	1-2
TANF	CASE AIDE	TAYLOR, NICOLE	SG 09	1
TANF	OFFICE ASSISTANT	BOTONE, SHELBY	SG 09	1
TANF	SECRETARY	DAVIS, VALERIE	SG 06	4
TANF	CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	VALADEZ, EDWARD AUGIE	HG 09	2
SENIOR SERVICES	MANAGER SENIOR SERVICES	ANDERSON, TERRIE C	MG 6	5-6
SENIOR SERVICES	SPIRITUAL CARE ADVOCATE	DUNSON, DAVID	SG 11	7-8
SENIOR SERVICES	OFFICE MANAGER	CARSON, CHRISTY	SG 10	1-2
SENIOR SERVICES	MAINTENANCE WORKER	HARJO, CHRISTOPHER	SG 7	6-7
SENIOR SERVICES	MAINTENANCE WORKER	LOYD, MANDY	SG 7	2-3
SENIOR SERVICES	MAINTENANCE WORKER	HILL, BILLY DEAN	SG 06	5-6
SENIOR SERVICES	MAINTENANCE WORKER	WILSON, SOLOMON	HG 06	5-6
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	DIRECTOR OF CHILDCARE	O'NEAL, BARBARA	MG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	ASSISTANT MANAGER/FINANCE OFFICER	FRANK, NEWMAN	MG 5	7-8
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR	GIDDENS, BECKY	SG 10	6-7
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE SUPERVISOR	AHTONE, JOANN	SG 10	5-6
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	BYRD, YAHDEKA	SG 09	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIST/ BILLING SPECIALIST	LEE, SEBRINA	SG 09	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST	WATTERS, TRACY	SG 09	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COMPLIANCE EXAMINER	TATE, VICKI	SG 08	6-7
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	RAINBOLT, LAURIE	SG 09	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TRAINING ACTIVITY SPECIALIST	LEWIS, TAMMY	SG 08	5-6
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WORKER	WASHINGTON, MICHAEL	SG 08	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE CASE WORKER	WATASHE, CYNTHIA	SG 08	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR OKMULGEE	LEWIS, YOLANDA	SG 08	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR HOLIDENVILLE	LOVEJOY, JOYCE	SG 08	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COMPLIANCE EXAMINER	SHADDEN, RICHARD DALLYOUS	SG 08	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR EUFAULA	SHAVE, PAULA	SG 08	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR OKEMAH	VANCE, ANGELA	SG 08	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR WETUMKA	BACON, MARCILLA	SG 08	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE CASE WORKER	RABBIT, TAMMY	SG 08	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WORKER	SANDS, GARRETT	SG 08	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	SAPULPA CENTER SUPERVISOR	BUSH, CHERYL	SG 08	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	PHILLIPS, NANCY	SG 7	5-6
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	RESOURCE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST II	BRANUM, ANITA BERNICE	SG 08	1
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE CASE WORKER	HOOKS, KATIE J	SG 08	1
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	TAYLOR, AMANDA	SG 6	9
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	DYKES, AMY LUANN	SG 07	5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	CENTER SUPERVISOR TULSA	LANE, JENNIFER M	SG 08	1
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	GORDON, TONYA	SG 7	5-6
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	FRYE, CAROL	SG 07	4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	FISH, SHANNON D	SG 07	4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	GARTRELL, MARIA	SG 7	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	BARZELLONE, SHARON	SG 7	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	KELLER, ROBIN	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	COULSON, JERRI	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	HIGHTOWER, AMY	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	FRAZIER, JESSICA	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	ANDERSON, LOUANA	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	BERRY, KAYLA	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	LUGRAND, KRYSTLE	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	ACTING TULSA CENTER SUPERVISOR	OVERSTREET, DORIS	SG 7	2-3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	LUGRAND, GLORIA A	SG 07	2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	LEBLANC, DONNA	SG 7	2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	DEERE, LENORA	SG 7	2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	MASTER TEACHER	GIBSON, MARLENE	SG 7	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	GIBSON, EDWINA L	SG 06	5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	MITCHELL, KESELAR	SG 06	5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	BOWMAN, PATRICA ANN	SG 07	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	COOK	MAXWELL, DANA R	SG 07	1-2
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	RAY, METISA	SG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	WEATHERS, REEM	SG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	JOHNSON, LISA	SG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	ROBERTS, BETSY	SG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	ANDERSON, VELETTA	SG 6	4-5
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LITTLETHUNDER, REGINA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	TRAYLOR, LEEANNA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	KING, KIMBERLY	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	RAINBOLT, RACHEL	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	MONDRAGON, ALDORA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LEGRAND, LACI	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	PROCTOR, PAIGE L	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	YAZZIE, KATHYRN	SG 06	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	ROBINS, DAWN	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	ALEXANDER, NIKKI	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	CHASTAIN, GLENDA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LYTLE, DIANA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	ANTWINE, LAKEIA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	DORSEY, DONNA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	HARN, GINA M	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	CLAYTON, MAKAYLA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	STOKES, TERRY	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	DOWLING, EVELYN	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	YODER, VANESSA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	HICKS, DANIELLE	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	SANDERS, AMY L	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	DILDINE, CARA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	GREEN, VARETTA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	MERDANIAN, KERRI	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LARNEY, MARIAN	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	BERRYHILL, LINDA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LANDRETH, KIMBERLY	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	HARJO, ROBERTA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	HARJO, HELEN	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	OFFICE CLERK II	COLLETT, DIANA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	OFFICE CLERK III/RECEPTIONIST	BROWN, MARIAH	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	COTTRELL, LACRETIA	SG 6	3-4
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	FOSTER, MARIA D	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER AIDE	ROGERS, COURTNEY R	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER AIDE	HOOVER, WYONA J	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	BEAR, SARAH D	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	CORNWELL, SIERRA	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	LONEMAN, LAQUITA C	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	MIKEL, LINDA M	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER AIDE	REINHARDT, ANDREA	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER AIDE	PERRY, KIMBER J	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER AIDE	MAGEE, MICHELE LEANNE	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	PRITCHETT, KAYLA D	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	WOLFE, TABETHA L	SG 06	3
OFFICE OF CHILD CARE	TEACHER	TIGER, SHEENA M	SG 06	3
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	DIRECTOR OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION	STERNER, ANNA	MG 6	7-8
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	CERTIFICATION SUPERVISOR	LOWE, ANITA	SG 10	9-10
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR	HARJO JR, NELSON	SG 10	8-9
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	OFFICE MANAGER	RAMIREZ, SHEILA	SG 10	7-8
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	INVENTORY SPECIALIST/DRIVER	MANLEY, MICHAEL	SG 08	5-6
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	YAHOLA, TIMOTHY	SG 08	5-6
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	WEGLEY, ROBERT	SG 08	5-6
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	NUTRITION COORDINATOR	TAYLOR, LOUISE	SG 08	3-4
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST	WOLFE, MINNIE	SG 08	3-4
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	ORCUTT, RONALD E	SG 07	7-8
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	CHALAKEE, JIMSEY	SG 07	5-6
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	DELLINGER, DIANA L	SG 07	4-5
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST	HARJO, NATASHA	SG 07	4-5
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST	ROBERTS, APRIL DRESHAYNE	SG 07	3
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	DONATHAN, JONATHON RAY	SG 06	6-7
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	RECEPTIONIST	BRINKLEY, AMBER SUE	SG 07	2-3
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST	TAYLOR, CYNTHIA	SG 06	6-7
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	JONES, HUNTER B	SG 06	4-5
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	WAREHOUSE OPERATOR	HARJO, DEMONTE	SG 06	4-5

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS	AZBELL, CHRISTOPHER	MG 9	5-6
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY	ALLEN, JESSE	MG 9	6
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	FARM EMPLOYEE	BARDIN, GERALD	SG 10	6-7
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II	DEL ANGEL, VICTORIA	SG 10	5-6
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	FARM EMPLOYEE	LARNEY, JAMES	SG 10	3-4
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	FARM MANAGER	HESSOM, EDWARD	MG 3	2-3
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	PROJECT MANAGER	HALTOM, WILLIAM	MG 3	2-3
INTERIOR AFFAIRS	OFFICE CLERK	TORBETT, SPENCER	HG 07	8
REALTY	MANAGER REALTY	MCINTOSH, SONYA	MG 7	5
REALTY	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	AUSMUS, JUDITH	SG 15	4
REALTY	ASSISTANT MANAGER	MOSS, SHAWN	SG 13	4-5
REALTY	TAAMS COORDINATOR	SMITH, LOU ANN	SG 13	5
REALTY	REALTY TRUST SPECIALIST	MILAM, KAREN	SG 13	2-3
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST II	KOWALS, KIMBERLY A.	SG 12	5
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST II	LANGLEY, RACHEL	SG 12	4-5
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST II	SULLIVAN, BOBBY	SG 12	4-5
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST II	HOLUBY, AUDRIA	SG 12	4-5
REALTY	CONSERVATION SPECIALIST	SIMPSON, ARCHIE	SG 12	3-4
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST	BEAR, ALYSSA D.	SG 10	9-10
REALTY	LAND TITLE PLANT SPECIALIST	TECUMSEH, SAMANTHA	SG 12	1-2
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST	KALER, BRANDY	SG 12	1-2
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST	OLEA, ZOELYNN	SG 11	5
REALTY	REALTY SPECIALIST	GREENE, BELINDA K	SG 09	9
REALTY	REALTY ASSISTANT CLERK	HOLATA, MARY	SG 09	9
TRANSPORTATION	ACTING MANAGER	CARSON, KIRK	MG 10	6-7
TRANSPORTATION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III	HUMPHREY, TAMRA	SG 12	4-5
TRANSPORTATION	SUPERVISOR	SPANIARD, KOGEE	SG 11	6
TRANSPORTATION	TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR	HILL, AMY L	SG 11	5
TRANSPORTATION	TRANSIT SUPERVISOR	HICKS, BUNNY	SG 10	6
TRANSPORTATION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	MCCOOL, SELBY	SG 10	5-6
TRANSPORTATION	FIELD SPECIALIST	LINDSEY, MOSE	SG 10	5-6
TRANSPORTATION	SECRETARY III	MESSER, PATRICIA	SG 09	8

TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	MCKINNEY, DANNY	SG 09	7-8
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	BEASLEY, DANIEL	SG 09	5-6
TRANSIT	COACH/SHUTTLE OPERATOR	GRAY, NETCHE	SG 10	1
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	MORGAN, JOHNNY	SG 7	8-9
TRANSIT	DISPATCH/BUS OPERATOR	DOYLE, TONYA	SG 07	8
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	TAYLOR, ARNOLD	SG 7	5
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	TAYLOR, ERIC	SG 7	5
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	WATSON, TINA	SG 7	2-3
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	WILSON, KARMA	SG 07	2-3
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	SANDS, ARTHUR	SG 06	6-7
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	KELLY, VICTORIA L	SG 07	2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	BARNETT, ALENE	SG 06	6
TRANSIT	BUS DRIVER/MAINTENANCE	BROWN, FRANKLIN	SG 07	1-2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	TAYLOR, STEPHANIE	SG 07	1-2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	HARJO, CHRISTOPHER JAMES	SG 07	1-2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	THOMPSON, KATHY R	SG 07	1-2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	LENA, DAVID	SG 07	1-2
TRANSIT	BUS OPERATOR	JACOBS, CLARA	SG 07	1-2
FEDERAL ROADS	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	MORGAN, MICHAEL	SG 10	5-6
FEDERAL ROADS	LABORER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	FOX, HARVEY	SG 09	9-10
FEDERAL ROADS	ACTING SITE FOREMAN	MCINTOSH, LASLEY RYDER	SG 08	9
FEDERAL ROADS	LABORER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	FUNK, GLENN	SG 09	4-5
FEDERAL ROADS	LABORER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	SANDERS, VIRGIL	SG 09	4
FEDERAL ROADS	LABORER	DAVIS, JEFFERSON B.	SG 08	1
FEDERAL ROADS	LABORER	MARTEL JR, JOE	SG 08	1
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	MANAGER TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	BASQUEZ, JIMMY	MG 5	6-7
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	FIELD SUPERVISOR	CHASTAIN, SHELTON	SG 10	7-8
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	GRIGGS, RICHARD	SG 10	1-2
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	WILLIAMS, WENDELL	SG 10	1-2
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	LEWIS, LANCE	SG 10	1-2
TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS	SECRETARY	LONG, THOMASINE	SG 7	5-6
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	MANAGER/CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER	VACANT		
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	PROFESSIONAL LICENSED SURVEYOR	VANDERSLICE, AARON BRENT	SG 16	5
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT MANAGER	HARJO, THOMAS	SG 14	1-2
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT MANAGER	BUNNER, KEITH	SG 14	1-2
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	FOREMAN	FORD, DAVID R	SG 13	4
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	MEAD, JERRY R	SG 12	7
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	INSPECTOR	FRANCIS, DARREN R	SG 13	1
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	SUPERVISOR	HARJO, JASON HOLLIS	SG 13	1
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	PROJECT MANAGER	FULTZ, LONELL E	SG 12	1
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II	BILLIE, MICHELE	SG 11	3-4
TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II	CATES, KATHERINE	SG 11	1
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	MANAGER	BUTLER, RAELYNN ASHLEY	SG 14	5-6
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	ARCHAEOLOGIST	WENDT, LEEANNE	SG 13	7-8
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	LOWE-ZEPEDA, CORAIN	SG 12	3-4
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	TECHNICAL SPECIALIST	SOWEKA JR, ROBIN R	SG 11	6
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CULTURAL COORD/RESEARCH LIBRARIAN	FREEMAN, HERTHA	SG 10	6-7
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CULTURAL TECHNICIAN	PEREZ, GANO	SG 10	6-7
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CEMETERY CREW LEADER	KELLY, CHARLES	SG 10	5-6
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ADVISOR	PROCTOR, DAVID	SG 10	4-5
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CEMETERY CREW	SOWEKA, ROBIN	SG 10	3-4
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CEMETERY CREW	KING, ALLEN	SG 09	5-6
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	CEMETERY CREW	BLUEBIRD, STEVEN LEE	SG 09	5-6
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	TCNS COORDINATOR	EDWARDS MARTEL, ELIZABETH	SG 09	4-5
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	SECRETARY	WESLEY, JOHNNIE	SG 09	4-5
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN	TARPALECHEE, ANTHONY T	SG 08	1
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	OFFICE CLERK	HICKS, LOIS	HG 6	3
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	OFFICE CLERK	JOHNSON, JOHN	HG 07	3-4
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ADVISOR	THOMPSON, TIMMY	HG 10	6-7
GEOSPATIAL	GIS COORDINATOR	HARJO, FRANK	SG 16	3-4
GEOSPATIAL	GIS ANALYST	COLEMAN, REBECCA	SG 14	4-5
GEOSPATIAL	ANAYLST	TULSA, SYLVIA	SG 13	3-4
GEOSPATIAL	APPLICATION DEVELOPER	IRWIN, RAYMOND	SG 12	5
GEOSPATIAL	DATA ANALYST/PROGRAMMER	GIBSON, AMIE R	SG 12	2
GEOSPATIAL	GIS ANALYST	SPROUSE, TONYA	SG 11	4-5
GEOSPATIAL	GIS ANALYST	ANDERSON, JOSEPH	SG 11	1-2
GEOSPATIAL	GIS ANALYST	BARNETT, JOSHUA	SG 09	3
RISK MANAGEMENT	MANAGER RISK MANAGEMENT	BOOKER, PHILLIP	MG 8	5-6
RISK MANAGEMENT	ANAYLST	TULSA, SYLVIA	SG 13	3-4
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR	NICHOLS, JAMES	SG 13	2-3
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN	HARLEY, ALLEENA	SG 09	3-4
ARBOR CARE	ACS SUPERVISOR	HICKS, OSCAR	SG 12	2-3
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	CHAMBERLAIN, MATTHEW	SG 10	7-8
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	HICKS, JAMES	SG 10	7-8
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	HORSE, DEWEY	SG 10	6-7
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	MCPERRYMAN, ERNEST	SG 10	6-7
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	HICKS, SHERMAN	SG 10	6-7
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	EDMUNDSON, PRESTON	SG 10	1-2
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	WILLIAMS, JAMES	SG 10	1-2
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	THOMAS, JOHNNY	SG 10	1-2
ARBOR CARE	ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER	TULSA, JOE	SG 10	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL	WILLIAMS, JAMES	MG 7	4-5
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	HILL, RONALD	SG 12	9
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST II	WILEY, DONNA YVETTE	SG 12	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST II	DANIELS, SUSUMU	SG 12	1
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	STANLEY, DENISE	SG 11	3-4
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	SALSMAN, MICHAEL	SG 11	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	BARNETT, ELIJAH	SG 11	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	GRAYSON, JUSTINA	SG 10	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	HYDROGEOLOGIST	WIND, MARTIN	SG 9	3-4
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	HOOPER, STEVEN JOE	SG 08	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	RECYCLING SPECIALIST	SETTLEMYRE, JOHN K.	SG 08	1-2
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	RECYCLING SPECIALIST	FISH, MICHAEL Y	HG 06	3
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	PLANNER	BIBLE, KELLEN	MG 8	8
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	SENIOR GRANT WRITER	REYHER, JENNIFER	SG 14	2
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	OFFICE MANAGER	SALTSMAN, ERIN	SG 12	5-6
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	GRANT WRITER	PETERS, SANDRA	SG 11	8-9
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	PLANNER	CASTLEMAN, JOSHUA D	SG 11	5-6
PLANNING/GRANT COMPLIANCE	GRANT MONITOR	HAWKINS, MONIQUE	SG 11	3-4
MUSEUM MANAGEMENT	INTERIM DIRECTOR	PIPESTEM, VERONICA ELIZABETH	MG 9	3
MUSEUM MANAGEMENT	OFFICE MANAGER	MCCLENATHAN, SHAVON	SG 12	5-6
MUSEUM MANAGEMENT	SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR	BROWN, JOHN	SG 11	6

SECRETARY OF HOUSING

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
HOUSING	SECRETARY OF HOUSING	BUCKTROT, ALVIN L	MG 9	5-6
HOUSING	PROGRAM MANAGER	FOGLE, RANCE D	MG 9	1-2
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN III	MOLINA, JEFFREY L	SG 14	1-2
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	FIXICO, EASTER	SG 12	9-10
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN III	VANDECAR, RYAN	SG 12	9-10
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN III	FOX, BRADLEY	SG 13	5-6
HOUSING	MANAGER HOUSING FORCE ACCOUNT	MCINTOSH, STANLEY	MG 6	5-6
HOUSING	MANAGER HOUSING BUDGET/CONTRACTS	HEFNER, DEBRA	SG 12	7-8
HOUSING	DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	SETTLEMYRE, STACY	MG 5	6-7
HOUSING	MANAGER RESIDENTAL HOUSING	BUNNER, PATRICIA	MG 5	6-7
HOUSING	COMPUTER GRAPHICS/WEB	KING, DAVID	SG 12	6-7
HOUSING	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER	BEAVER, BRANT	SG 12	6-7
HOUSING	HOUSING MANAGEMENT MANAGER	HARJO-KING, LORA	MG 5	5
HOUSING	CONTRACT COORDINATOR	FOX, TONETTE	SG 12	4-5
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN III	MAYES, JERRY	MG 5	4-5
HOUSING	COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST	MORGAN, PATRICIA	SG 11	5-6
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	ALEXANDER, JAMES	SG 12	1-2
HOUSING	CARPENTER	BUNNY, FAREN	SG 12	1-2
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	MANUS, JEFFREY	SG 10	9-10
HOUSING	DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST COORDINATOR	LOWE, LINDA	SG 11	5
HOUSING	INSURANCE SPECIALIST	CRUMP, LENORA	SG 10	7-8
HOUSING	SYSTEMS OPERATOR	DEERINGWATER, MELINDA	SG 10	7-8
HOUSING	HOUSING MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	NICHOLS, JAMIE	SG 10	7-8
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN III	FLETCHER, CLYDE	SG 10	7-8
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	LOWE, TONY	SG 10	6-7
HOUSING	OFFICE SUPERVISOR	GOODVOICE, STEPHANIE	SG 11	1-2
HOUSING	HOUSING SERVICE SPECIALIST	GROUNDS, LARRY	SG 10	4-5
HOUSING	DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	PROCTOR, MICHAEL	SG 10	4-5
HOUSING	COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST	FRANK, JOELLEN	SG 10	4-5
HOUSING	OKEMAH SITE MANAGER	COACHMAN, LUCINDA	SG 10	4-5
HOUSING	TAYLOR DRIVE SITE MANAGER	HOLLAND-ROSE, BETTY	SG 09	8-9
HOUSING	ANNUAL INSPECTOR	MURPHY, PATRICK	SG 09	7-8
HOUSING	INVENTORY CLERK	PROCTOR, ANDREW	SG 09	7-8
HOUSING	HOUSING SERVICE SPECIALIST	BERRYHILL, MARIAN	SG 10	3-4
HOUSING	CRUTCHMER SITE MANAGER	HARVEY, TAMMY	SG 09	7-8
HOUSING	CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST	MURPHY, PAMELA SUE	SG 10	3-4
HOUSING	HOUSING SERVICE SPECIALIST	HALL, MELBA	SG 10	2-3
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	BERRYHILL, VICTOR	SG 09	6-7
HOUSING	RESIDENT SERVICE SPECIALIST	TOTTRESS, IVALENE	MG 2	6-7
HOUSING	CONTRACT SERVICE SPECIALIST	MCCARGO, RENATEE	SG 09	6
HOUSING	COUNSELOR	PASCALE, DAVID	SG 09	5-6
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	LAY, ROBERT	SG 09	5-6
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	MCDOWELL, PATRICK	SG 9	4-5
HOUSING	SECRETARY III	FIXICO, NADINE	SG 09	4-5
HOUSING	DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT	WALKER, FELESIA	SG 08	8
HOUSING	COUNSELOR	HARDING, REBEKAH	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	COUNSELOR	PUEBLA, VERONICA	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	COUNSELOR	HARRIS-NOEAR, KERMITTA S	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	DAVIS, JOHN	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	FILE CLERK	WITT, ROBYN	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK	BEAR, JANICE	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	SYSTEMS OPERATOR II	WIND, MELODIE	SG 08	7-8
HOUSING	SECRETARY	WILLIE, KATHERINE	SG 09	3-4
HOUSING	COUNSELOR	STARR, ERICK W	SG 08	7
HOUSING	INSPECTOR	ROBERTS, ROLAND	SG 9	2-3
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	BURGESS, MONROE	SG 09	2-3
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	BUTLER, BRANDON	SG 09	2-3
HOUSING	TECHNICIAL CLERK	FOX, MARCY	SG 09	2-3
HOUSING	EUFAULA SITE MANAGER	WALKER, BRANDIE	SG 9	1-2
HOUSING	CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN II	JONES, RYAN	SG 09	1-2
HOUSING	CHECOTAH SITE MANAGER	HARJO, CARA	SG 09	1-2
HOUSING	ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR	STONE, LESLIE	SG 08	5
HOUSING	ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR	HARLEY, BETHANY ROCHELLE	SG 08	5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE	MORGAN, SARAH	SG 08	2-3
HOUSING	RECEPTIONIST	LEE, JANET	SG 7	5-6
HOUSING	RECEPTIONIST	BELL, RHIANNON SUE	SG 08	1
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	JONES, TERRY	SG 7	5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	SHARP, PERCY	SG 7	4-5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	POPE, JOHNNY	SG 7	4-5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	BERRYHILL, MERLE	SG 7	4-5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	PARSONS, BOBBY	SG 7	3-4
HOUSING	FILE CLERK	MONDRAGON, DESTINA	SG 07	3
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	BARRETT, CARLENE	SG 7	2-3
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	BARNETT, ACEE	SG 7	2
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	BALES, JEFFREY O	SG 07	1-2
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	POLLARD, BRYAN E	SG 06	5
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	YAHOLA, JUSTIN	SG 7	1-2
HOUSING	MAINTENANCE TECH	BEAVER, JOHN	SG 06	3-4

OFFICE OF JUSTICE

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ATTORNEY GENERAL	DELLINGER, KEVIN	MG 14	8-9
ATTORNEY GENERAL	2ND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	ARKEKETA, SUSAN	MG 10	6-7
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	BURGIN, SHANNA	SG 15	8-9
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL PROSECUTOR	HARRISON, SHELLY	SG 16	1-2
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	DOWELL, LINDSAY	SG 14	9-10
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	GRIFFITH HOTVEDT, CARLY D	SG 14	7-8
ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	TOPPAH, JO ETTA	SG 14	4-5

NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - Executive Branch

ATTORNEY GENERAL	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL	MILLER, MANDY	SG 14	3-4
ATTORNEY GENERAL	OFFICE MANAGER	FREEMAN, CYNTHIA	SG 11	5-6
ATTORNEY GENERAL	LEGAL SECRETARY	HINSHAW, TASHA	SG 09	5-6
ATTORNEY GENERAL	RECEPTIONIST	HICKS, ANNA	SG 08	6-7
ATTORNEY GENERAL	LEGAL SECRETARY	LOCUST, RACHAEL	SG 09	2-3
CHILD SUPPORT	BUDGET & COMPLIANCE MANAGER	WILLIAMS, CAROL	SG 14	8
CHILD SUPPORT	FINANCIAL SPECIALIST II	SHACKELTON, STEPHANIE	SG 13	9-10
CHILD SUPPORT	INV CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	CHECOTAH, TAMMY	SG 13	5-6
CHILD SUPPORT	PARALEGAL	RYALS, SHELYAH	SG 13	4-5
CHILD SUPPORT	CASE MANAGER	MOORE, JESSICA	SG 12	8
CHILD SUPPORT	PARALEGAL	TAYLOR, JADE	SG 13	3-4
CHILD SUPPORT	FINANCIAL SPECIALIST	JIMBOY, TESSIE	SG 13	1-2
CHILD SUPPORT	CASE SPECIALIST	WIND, JOSHUA	SG 12	3-4
CHILD SUPPORT	OFFICE MANAGER	WITTMAN, KIMBERLY	SG 11	7-8
CHILD SUPPORT	CASE SPECIALIST	ROBBINS-PARSONS, SHAWNA M	SG 12	3
CHILD SUPPORT	CASE SPECIALIST	IVEY, LYNETTE K	SG 12	3
CHILD SUPPORT	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	CAYWOOD, PAULA	SG 11	5-6
CHILD SUPPORT	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	JAMES, CHARLOTTE	SG 11	1
CHILD SUPPORT	RECEPTIONIST	BRIAN, JULE A	SG 08	4-5
LEGAL SERVICES	MANAGER	SALSMAN, BETHANY	SG 11	3-4

CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
CITIZENSHIP	DIRECTOR OF CITIZENSHIP	WILSON, NATHAN	MG 9	8-9
CITIZENSHIP	SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	WALLS, JASON	SG 16	7-8
CITIZENSHIP	MANAGER CITIZENSHIP	WADE, TRACY	MG 7	6-7
CITIZENSHIP	RESEARCH SPECIALIST/SUPERVISOR	COLBERT JR, ALLAN	SG 13	6
CITIZENSHIP	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	PROCTOR, ANDREW	SG 12	7
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST II	BURNSIDE, ALICIA	SG 11	7-8
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	BEAVER, ANTHONY	SG 10	8-9
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	HUDGENS, STACY	SG 10	8-9
CITIZENSHIP	RECEPTIONIST	CLANTON, TAYLOR S.	SG 10	7-8
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	WITTMAN, CECELIA	SG 10	6-7
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	HARJO, KARI	SG 10	5-6
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	MCINTOSH, TAMIE	SG 10	5-6
CITIZENSHIP	ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST	LEWIS, TRACY L	SG 10	5-6
CITIZENSHIP	ELECTRONIC RECORDS ARCHIVIST	RANDOLPH, CANDACE	SG 09	7-8
CITIZENSHIP	CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST	WAGGNOR, MELANY	SG 08	9-10
CITIZENSHIP	CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST	BEAR, TRAYSA	SG 9	5-6
CITIZENSHIP	OFFICE ASSISTANT	HOSKISON, MIA R	SG 08	7-8
ELECTION BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	HARJO, NETTIE	MG 5	5-6
ELECTION BOARD	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	LOWE, TRACEY	SG 11	6-7
ELECTION BOARD	OFFICE CLERK	VARNER, BETSY	SG 09	7-8
ELECTION BOARD	OFFICE ASSISTANT	WAGGONER, JOHN	SG 08	6-7
ELECTION BOARD	REGISTRATION CLERK	ARECHIGA, CINDY	SG 08	6-7
ELECTION BOARD	REGISTRATION CLERK	DEO, TINA D	HG 8	6-7
TAX COMMISSION	TAX COMMISSIONER	MCPEAK, JERRY	MG 9	1-2
TAX COMMISSION	OFFICE MANAGER	LANGLEY, JENNIFER	SG 10	6-7
TAX COMMISSION	SR REVENUE AGENT	BENAVIDEZ, LINDSEY	SG 09	7
TAX COMMISSION	REVENUE AGENT	FLETCHER, LUCINDA	SG 08	7-8
TAX COMMISSION	REVENUE AGENT	TAYLOR, MICHAELAN J	SG 08	5-6
TAX COMMISSION	REVENUE AGENT	DEARMON, KRISTAL L.	SG 07	6-7
TAX COMMISSION	REVENUE AGENT	BURGESS, CARMEN	SG 08	1-2

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
COLLEGE ADMIN	COLLEGE PRESIDENT	BIBLE, ROBERT	MG 12	8-9
COLLEGE ADMIN	DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS	HART, JAN	MG 8	6-7
COLLEGE ADMIN	DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	RANDALL, MONTE	MG 7	4-5
COLLEGE ADMIN		TYNER, MEKKO	SG 14	2-3
COLLEGE ADMIN	DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS	WIND, KRYSTAL	MG 6	42496
COLLEGE ADMIN	NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR	MYERS, CECIL NEIL	SG 13	4-5
COLLEGE ADMIN	ADMISSIONS AND RECORD OFFICER	MCCORMACK, EVELYN	SG 12	8-9
COLLEGE ADMIN	FINANCIAL AIDE COORDINATOR	PEMBROOK, TRENT	SG 13	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER COORDINATOR	JACKSON, JACOB	SG 12	7-8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR MUSCOGEE STUDIES	MARSHALL, NORMA	SG 13	7-8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR CORE ACADEMIS	COURTWRIGHT, RITA	SG 13	7-8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR TRIBAL STUDIES	MOORE, MACKIE H	SG 13	2-3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR GENERAL EDUCATION	SANDS, RONNIE	SG 13	2-3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR HISTORY	CAREY, LYDIA ANN	SG 13	2-3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR MATHMATICS	ADNEY, TALER J	SG 13	2
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR SCIENCE	SANDERS, CYNTHIA	SG 13	1-2
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR GAMING	MCINTOSH, SHANH-DEA	SG 13	1-2
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	RESEARCH SPECIALIST	AZBELL, LACEY	sg 12	5-6
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR	SALA, BRANDIE N	SG 13	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	LIBRARIAN	HAUGHT, KAREN	SG 12	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	BURSAR	NAJERA, CHERYL L	SG 12	4
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER COORDINATOR	LOWE, ELSA	SG 12	3-4
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR	COON, BOBBIE	SG 12	3-4
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	FACILITIES SUPERVISOR	PROCTOR, WILLIAM	SG 11	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	BOOKSTORE MANAGER	KING, SHEILA	SG 11	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	GRANT COORDINATOR	PARKER, MARISSA	SG 10	7-8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	CASE MANAGER	BROWN, ADRIANNE ELISE	SG 10	7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ACADEMIC RESOURCE SPECIALIST	CLARK, CHELSEA E	SG 11	2
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST	FACTOR, LINETTE	SG 10	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	FIXICO, LENORA	SG 09	8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR	MORDECAI, JAMES	SG 9	6-7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	RESIDENTAL MANAGER	POWELL, DIANNA	SG 9	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT	SELSOR, BRIAN	SG 8	6-7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	COMPUTER TECHNICIAN	WATSON, ERIC	SG 8	6-7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	BRINKLEY JR, REGINALD D	SG 8	6-7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	BIGGS, CACI D	SG 08	6
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	BEAR, LISA	SG 8	5-6
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NOON, CANDISE MARIE	SG 08	5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	RECEPTIONIST	HICKS, DELANA M	SG 08	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	RECEPTIONIST	GEORGE, HANNA E	SG 08	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ARMED SECURITY	PARKER, DEREK	SG 6	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	SECURITY OFFICER	PAYNE, RAMIAN	SG 6	7-8
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	COOK	STRINGFELLOW, LINDSEY J	SG 07	1-2
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ARMED SECURITY	LOWE, STEVEN A	SG 06	7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ARMED SECURITY	REMIS JR, SAM JOSEPH	SG 06	7
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	CASIER	MOSQUITO, JAYCE M	SG 06	4
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	JANITOR/BUS DRIVER	SMITH, LORENA	SG 6	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	CASHIER	GUINN, TONYA	SG 6	4-5
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	CUSTODIAN	PHILLIPS, CHENENA KAY	SG 06	3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	CUSTODIAN	WATKINS, KALIAN JAWAUN	SG 06	3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	COOK	LUNSFORD, CONNIE	HG 7	2-3
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTUCTOR-ADJUNCT	MCKENZIE, KASEY R	HG 06	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTUCTOR-ADJUNCT	MOSS, JULIE	HG 06	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTUCTOR-ADJUNCT	HARJO SR., NELSON S	HG 06	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTUCTOR-ADJUNCT	BARNETT, REBECCA	HG 06	1
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUATIONAL WORK STUDY	ROSS, CHEYANDRA L	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	FIXICO, DANIELE R	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	MORGAN, TARYN	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	TAYLOR, MORGAN	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	YOUNG, CODY B	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	MUNIZ, LAROSA M	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	MORGAN, TIFFANY	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	BRINKLEY, SHAIGNE B	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	GHOLSTON, RAYNA M	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUATIONAL WORK STUDY	CLARK, GARTH B	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	CUEVAS, BRITTENY	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	DAVIDSON-SIMMONS, KYA	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	KOEHLER, MATTHEW	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTITUTIONAL WORK STUDY	KRUEGER, KRISTIAN J.	PROGRAM	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR	POLK, CRYSTAL G	STIPENDS	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR	TREAGESSER, BRANDY R	STIPENDS	
MCN TRIBAL COLLEGE	INSTRUCTOR ADJUNCT	HAWKINS, ROBERT	STIPENDS	

STATUTORY AGENCIES

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
LIGHTHORSE	DEPUTY LIGHTHORSE CHIEF	HAWKINS, ROBERT	MG 9	4-5
LIGHTHORSE	LIGHTHORSE CHIEF	WIND, DANIEL	MG 8	6-7
LIGHTHORSE	CAPTAIN	NORTHCROSS, DENNIS	SG 12	8
LIGHTHORSE	OFFICE MANAGER	SANDS, BARBARA	SG 12	8
LIGHTHORSE	CAPTAIN	COMSTOCK, JOEY	SG 12	8
LIGHTHORSE	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	LINDSEY, JOHN	SG 12	6-7
LIGHTHORSE	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	SMITH, JERE	SG 13	1
LIGHTHORSE	PROPERTY SERGEANT	CUMMINGS, WASHINGTON	SG 11	5-6
LIGHTHORSE	METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE PROJECT COORD	BLEEKER, JASON	SG 11	5
LIGHTHORSE	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	WIND, ANTHONY	SG 11	5
LIGHTHORSE	SERGEANT	BEAR, LELAND	SG 11	4-5
LIGHTHORSE	SERGEANT	JOHNSON, STANLEY	SG 11	4-5
LIGHTHORSE	SERGEANT	BACON, ROBERT	SG 11	4-5
LIGHTHORSE	K-9 OFFICER	MORRIS, CHAD	SG 10	8-9
LIGHTHORSE	K-9 OFFICER	WILLIAMS, PATRICK	SG 10	8-9
LIGHTHORSE	GAME RANGER	DAWSON, JOSEPH PAUL	SG 11	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	LINDSAY, RICKY	SG 10	6-7
LIGHTHORSE	K-9 OFFICER	FEATHER, DONALD	SG 11	1
LIGHTHORSE	SERGEANT	WENZEL, JASON MATTHEW	SG 11	1
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	BEAVER, DANNY	SG 10	4
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	HENRY, DENISE	SG 10	4
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR	FRANK, JEFFREY	SG 09	7-8
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	SANDS, TYLER	SG 10	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	DELAUNE, EUCLID	SG 09	7
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	LYDAY, JEWEL	SG 10	2-3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	RICHARDS, THERAN	SG 10	2-3
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	SANDS, AMBER	SG 09	6-7
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	MORGAN, CHAD	SG 09	6-7
LIGHTHORSE	RECORDS MANAGER	RILEY, TRILLIA	SG 09	6
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	LEE JR, SIMEON	SG 10	1-2
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	JACKSON, KEITH	SG 09	5
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	BEAVER, MALISSA	SG 09	4
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	CUMMINGS, JOSHUA	SG 09	3-4
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	LEE, STEPHEN A	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	BOTTS, KEVIN	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	ARNOLD, LEROY	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	BOSWELL, TRACEY	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	GILROY, TREVOR	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	REGIAN, ANTHONY COLE	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	MITCHELL JR, HERSCHEL LEE	SG 09	3
LIGHTHORSE	POLICE OFFICER	LEGGETT, SAVANNAH B	SG 09	1
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	JONES, ANGELA	SG 08	4
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	ROBERTS, DESIREE	SG 08	3
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	SMITH, LAUREN RAYLENE	SG 08	1
LIGHTHORSE	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	DORMAN, WHITTNEY L	SG 08	1

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
OPG	GAMING COMMISSIONER	YORK, BUDDY	MG 12	3-4
OPG	IT PROJECT MANAGER	BURRIGHT, RALPH JERED	MG 9	4-5
OPG	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	GIBSON, JACKIE	MG 9	2-3
OPG	COMPLIANCE MANAGER	ADAMS, CHARLES	mg 7	4-5
OPG	SYSTEM ANALYST	KRITIKOS, RICHARD	SG 13	7-8
OPG	IT ANALYST	STARKEY, BRANDON	SG 14	1-2
OPG	SURVEILLANCE SUPERVISOR	HELMS, CHELSEA	SG 12	8-9
OPG	REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR	GILLIN, KENNETH	MG 5	6-7
OPG	REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR	EVANS, DONALD	MG 5	6-7
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	LEE, SANDY	SG 11	9-10
OPG	SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR	ALLEN, ZACH	MG 5	3-4
OPG	LEAD INVESTIGATOR	LINDUFF, JAMES	SG 11	6-7
OPG	SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE AGENT	WATTERS, STACY	SG 12	2-3
OPG	SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE AGENT	JOHNSTON, LAQUITA	SG 12	2-3
OPG	BANNING/SOFTWARE AGENT	NOON-TOMAH, MARTHA	SG 11	6
OPG	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	BROSSETT, MARY	SG 10	9-10
OPG	REVIEW ANALYST	ELLIS, MICHAEL	SG 10	8-9
OPG	SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE AGENT	BACK, STEPHANIE	SG 11	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE SUPERVISOR	VANN, JUDY	MG 4	3-4
OPG	SURVEILLANCE SUPERVISOR	GIBSON, ANTHONY	MG 4	3-4
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	HILL, LEVI	SG 11	3-4
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	BRECKENRIDGE, CORY	SG 11	3-4
OPG	LEAD LICENSING AGENT	JOHNSTON, KIM	SG 11	3-4
OPG	LEAD LICENSING AGENT	DUTCHY, DAWNA	SG 10	7-8
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	GOUGE, RANDY	SG 10	6-7
OPG	VENDOR LICENSING AGENT	BROSSETT, STEPHANIE	SG 10	6-7
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	PICKERING, CARLA	SG 10	5-6
OPG	SOFTWARE COMPLIANCE AGENT	MILLER, JODI	SG 11	1-2
OPG	INTERNAL AUDITOR	WHITEMAN, SANDY	SG 10	5-6
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	BEAR, ERV	SG 11	1
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	THOMPSON, GARY	SG 11	1
OPG	AUDIO/VISUAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	FULTZ, SYDNEE	SG 11	1
OPG	INTERNAL AUDITOR	CHAMBERLAIN, NANCI	SG 10	4-5
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	GODFREY, SUSAN	SG 10	3-4
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	STAFFORD, KELLI	SG 09	7-8
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	SAWYER, JASON	SG 10	2-3
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	CHECOTAH, ROMAN	SG 10	2-3
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	JACKSON, KARLATA	SG 10	2-3
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	CESSNA, CONNIE	SG 9	6-7
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	MOONEY, HUNTER	SG 09	6-7
OPG	INTERNAL AUDITOR	KELLY, JORDAN MICHAEL	SG 10	1-2
OPG	INTERNAL AUDITOR	WIND, MESKE	SG 10	1-2
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	CHILES, WINFRED	SG 10	1-2
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	TIGER, MARTIN	SG 8	9-10
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	FRANKLIN, MELANIE G	SG 09	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MILLER, DONNA	SG 8	8-9
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	GONZALEZ, BEVERLY	SG 8	8-9
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	WHISENHUNT, JEANNIE	SG 8	8-9
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BIGPOND, JASON	SG 8	7-8
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	CODNER, ZANE	SG 9	3-4
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	INGRAM, ROY	SG 09	3-4
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	BEAVER, KATRINA L	SG 09	3-4
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	JEFFERSON, PATRICIA	SG 8	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	TRIMBLE, RONALD	SG 8	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	WATKINS, MILDRED	SG 8	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	DYKES, TERESA	SG 8	7-8
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	MILAM, TANYA	SG 09	3-4
OPG	REGULATORY AGENT	JAMES, BUDDY	SG 09	2-3
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	MORGAN, NACOLE	SG 09	2-3
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	MCMUNN, RHONDA	SG 09	2-3
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	POWELL, LETA	SG 8	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	RYAN, STACEY	SG 8	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HEMINGWAY, CARLIE	SG 8	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BEILKE, MARILYN	SG 8	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	POTTER, JOHN	SG 8	6-7
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	STEED, RANDY L	SG 09	1-2
OPG	LICENSING AGENT	THOMPSON, ELIZABETH	SG 09	1-2
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	ROMANELLO, JACQUELINE	SG 7	9-10
OPG	VENDOR LICENSING AGENT	CHACON, KYLA JAMAY	SG 09	1-2
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MARTIN, CHARLES	SG 7	8-9
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BUCKALOO, CHRIS	SG 7	8-9
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	ANTWINE, MARVA	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MARTIN, PEGGY	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	GOODWIN, PHYLLIS	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BRANSON, ANGELA	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	RILEY, SHERRIL	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	CAMREN, BRANDA	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BELL, JAMYE	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	ROUELL, CHELSA	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	NIESEL, LINDA	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MATTISON, TIFFANY	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HAGGARD, LONNIE	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	CALLISON, DIXIE	SG 7	7-8
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	RAMIREZ, MALEAH	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HARJO, AMBER K.	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	WARRIOR, BRENDA	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	GIBSON, TYRONE	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HALLUM, SHERYL	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	SPAULDING, SAMARIA	SG 7	6-7
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	RIVAS, VICTOR	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	VAUGHN, BRADI	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	STARR, MARTA	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	CHALAKEE, CHEYENNE	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BAKER, JOHN	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BAILEY, CLAYTON	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BELL, BRITTNY	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MILLER, SCOTT	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	YORK, MICHAEL	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	JULY, RETA	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	WILLIAMSON, RYAN	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	GROSS, RICK	SG 7	5-6
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	DANIELS, DANA LORRAINE	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	JIM, ANGEL A	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	POLLARD, KACEE D	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BEAR, IESHA J	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BERRYHILL, VANESSA KAY	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	GILBERT, AMBER D	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	ESCOE, BRITTANY L	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	JONES, TANA S	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BOHANON, DYLLON T	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BRINSFIELD, EBONY NICOLE	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	WOODFORK, STANLEY	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HOTEMA, GARRETT	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	DAN, MERRISSA	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	CALL, WHITLEY S	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	TILLEY, MELANIE JEAN	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	COLLINS, MATTHEW	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	BARNETT, SHERRIE L	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	REED, JEREMY	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	SANDERS, WENDY L	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	PARKER, BROOKE N	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	NOTLEY, AMANDA L	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	KIGHT, CRYSTAL A	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	HEMINGWAY, COBIE DAWN	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	KELLEY, KENNETH ALLAN	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	MOONEY, DILLON	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	TIGER, AMBER MICHELLE	SG 07	4-5
OPG	SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	DEERINGWATER, SHAWN D	SG 07	4-5
MVSKOKE MEDIA	INTERIM MANAGER	SALSMAN, JASON	SG 12	5-6
MVSKOKE MEDIA	MEDIA COORDINATOR	MCBRIDE, JESSICA	SG 11	8
MVSKOKE MEDIA	OFFICE MANAGER	MURPHY, WILMA	SG 11	7
MVSKOKE MEDIA	GRAPHICS SUPERVISOR	TARYOLE, JENNIFER	SG 10	7-8
MVSKOKE MEDIA	EDITOR	COSPER, STERLING	SG 11	3-4
MVSKOKE MEDIA	BROADCAST SPECIALIST	MOORE, JERRAD	SG 10	5-6
MVSKOKE MEDIA	GRAPHIC DESIGNER	DELANA, TATE	SG 10	4-5
MVSKOKE MEDIA	RADIO COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST	FIFE, GARY	SG 09	8-9
MVSKOKE MEDIA	PROJECT SPECIALIST	RICH, CHELSIE	SG 10	2-3
MVSKOKE MEDIA	WEBSITE DESIGNER/AUDIO VISUAL	DELAUNE, DARREN	SG 09	4-5
MVSKOKE MEDIA	GRAPHIC DESIGNER	HILL, MARK	SG 09	3-4
MVSKOKE MEDIA	MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST	LUCHSINGER, DEVINEY ROSE	SG 09	2-3
MVSKOKE MEDIA	PRINTING TECH I	ROBERTS, WILLIAM	SG 09	2-3
MVSKOKE MEDIA	PRINTING TECH I	GRAY, ELIZABETH	SG 09	2-3
MVSKOKE MEDIA	SYSTEM ANALYST	SLANE, JOSHUA	SG 08	5-6
MVSKOKE MEDIA	PRINTING TECH I	ROLLAND, JAMIE M.	SG 08	4-5
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	BOARD MEMBER	MOUSS, EDWARD FI	STIPEND	STIPEND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	BOARD MEMBER	JENKINS, ROBIN ELAINE	STIPEND	STIPEND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	BOARD MEMBER	DAVIS, ROBERT Y	STIPEND	STIPEND
GOAB	BOARD MEMBER	WALLER, GAYLA	STIPEND	STIPEND
GOAB	BOARD MEMBER	RAY, CHRISTOPHER	STIPEND	STIPEND
GOAB	BOARD MEMBER	WILLITS, PAULA	STIPEND	STIPEND
GOAB	BOARD MEMBER	MCCOY, JEFF	STIPEND	STIPEND
CDFI	BOARD MEMBER	KENT, BRAD W	STIPEND	STIPEND
CDFI	BOARD MEMBER	WILSON, LAWRENCE	STIPEND	STIPEND
CDFI	BOARD MEMBER	KING, EARL	STIPEND	STIPEND
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	YAHOLA, ELIZABETH	STIPEND	STIPEND
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	HARJO SR., NELSON	STIPEND	STIPEND
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	JOHNSON, CLARENCE	STIPEND	STIPEND
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	TARYOLE, DARLENE	STIPEND	STIPEND
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	HENSON, JOAN	STIPEND	STIPEND
MVSKOKE MEDIA	BOARD MEMBER	SNELL, TRAVIS W	STIPEND	STIPEND
MVSKOKE MEDIA	BOARD MEMBER	LANDSBERRY, REBECCA	STIPEND	STIPEND
ELECTION BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	BERRYHILL, WILMA	STIPENDS	STIPEND
ELECTION BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	PIGEON, WALTER	STIPENDS	STIPEND
ELECTION BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	MEEKER, ANGELA	STIPENDS	STIPEND
ELECTION BOARD	BOARD MEMBER	COURTWRIGHT, VERNON	STIPENDS	STIPEND
BOARD	Board Of Regents Board Member	MASON, RAMONA	STIPENDS	STIPEND
BOARD	Board Of Regents Board Member	RAMIREZ, PANDEE	STIPENDS	STIPEND
BOARD	Board Of Regents Board Member	CLARK, CARTER	STIPENDS	STIPEND
BOARD	Board Of Regents Board Member	MOUSS, SHARON	STIPENDS	STIPEND
BOARD	Board Of Regents Board Member	FLUD, MICHAEL	STIPENDS	STIPEND

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	FINANCE OFFICER	WHITECLOUD, ROBYN	MG 8	8-9
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	SECRETARY	SEWELL, KRISTIE	SG 15	5-6
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	LEGAL RESEARCH SPECIALIST	MCLAIN, ALICIA	SG 14	9-10
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	LEGISTLATIVE CLERK IV	LINDSEY, APRIL	SG 10	6-7
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	RECEPTIONIST	SHARP, JULIE	SG 09	9-10
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	JANITOR/MAINTENANCE	YARGEE, ROBERT	SG 10	5-6
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	JANITOR/MAINTENANCE	BYRD, ANTHONY	SG 10	1-2
NATIONAL COUNCIL STAFF	LEGISLATIVE CLERK II	BERRYHILL, KI-CUPKOCE	SG 08	1-2
NATIONAL COUNCIL	SPEAKER	TIGER III, LUCIAN A.	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	SECOND SPEAKER	HILL, DAVID	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	SERGEANT OF ARMS	PROCTOR, DARRELL	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	HICKS, RANDALL D	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	BEAVER, DEL	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	SCOTT, RUFUS	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	HUFFT, ROBERT	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	DEERE, JOYCE	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	YAHOLA, THOMAS	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	GREENE, JOHNNIE	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	BARNETT, DODE	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	BEAVER, MOSE	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	JENNINGS, JAMES	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	JACK, MITCH	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	JONES, ADAM	STIPEND	STIPEND
NATIONAL COUNCIL	COUNCIL MEMBER	RANDOLPH, MARK	STIPEND	STIPEND

JUDICAL BRANCH

Department	Position	Employee_Name	Classification(	STEP
SUPREME COURT	COURT CLERK	MARKS, LAURA	SG 12	5-6
SUPREME COURT	COURT CLERK	DEARMAN, CONNIE	MG 7	1-2
DISTRICT COURT	STAFF ATTORNEY	CHADWICK, JASEN	MG 9	7-8
DISTRICT COURT	COURT CLERK	MORTON, JESSIE KAY	SG 09	5-6
DISTRICT COURT	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	BIGLER, GREGORY	MG 5	8-9
DISTRICT COURT	DISTRICT DEPUTY COURT CLERK	KING, TOBIE	SG 13	6-7
DISTRICT COURT	COURT CLERK	BEAVER, DONNA	SG 16	5-6
DISTRICT COURT	DISTRICT COURT PEACE OFFICER	BIBLE, LARRY	SG 13	3-4
DISTRICT COURT	DEPUTY COURT CLERK II	BEAR, STEPHANIE	SG 11	4-5

NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - Executive Branch

CHIEF JUSTICE	ASSOCIATE JUDGE	SUPERNAW, KATHLEEN	STIPEND	STIPEND
CHIEF JUSTICE	ASSOCIATE JUDGE	LERBLANCE, RICHARD	STIPEND	STIPEND
CHIEF JUSTICE	CHIEF JUSTICE	ADAMS, ANDREW	STIPEND	STIPEND
CHIEF JUSTICE	SUPREME COURT JUSTICE	HARJO-WARE, MILDRED	STIPEND	STIPEND
CHIEF JUSTICE	VICE CHIEF JUSTICE	THOMPSON, GEORGE	STIPEND	STIPEND
CHIEF JUSTICE	VICE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE	DEER, MONTIE	STIPEND	STIPEND
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WATSON, RIVER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUNN, JIMMY D.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, ISAIAH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GOURD, SIERRA LUANN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, CHEBON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDREWS, ANTHONY C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUNNER, ERIN N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, SARAH J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SUTTON, MIYA S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FAULKNER, RAYNA S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COMPTON, NATALIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BACON, BRENT W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, ELIJAH D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCCARGO, OCTAVIA T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SWAFFER, WHITNEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RATHDONE, TYLER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEARD, ERIK B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ADAMS, JADEN N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BLACKBEAR, IRA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SHIELDS, ARMAHNI	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CROW, SETH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FIELDS, ALEXANDER L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, DARRAYL E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JACK, JASMYNE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BELL, ALLISSA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAVER, COMMANCHE S.W.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, COLTIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAVER, NOAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUCKLEY, JASMINE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DEERINGWATER, DEVIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUELSTER, DAKOTA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOWE, MINIAH M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STARK, TRACE M.L.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMS, KYLIAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KAHBEAH, DAKOTA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GRACE, SHAUN A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ZACKERY, STEPHANIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FACTOR, KAITLYN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CARTER JR., DAMON L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAVIS, TRAYELL J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HERROD, SKY F	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TARPALECHEE, TRENTON L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRANK, MYKALIA A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LENA, MARIAH J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILSON, TYRA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, CHASE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ADOLPH, BRENNA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUNN, DESTINY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, CHRISTINE C.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, ALEXIS N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUTLER, MALEAH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRY, EMMANUEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WOLFE, ANDYE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FACTOR, CHEYENNE D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ARECHIGA, JESSICA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, MISHAELA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEEN, TAWNEE C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KAHBEAH JR., EUGENE R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TONEY, DESIREE N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUBACH, QUINTEN L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KELLY, JOSEPH N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAR, WILLIAM R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUTLER, ANDY C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ORTIZ, JESSIE E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WASHINGTON, RYAN R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JAMES, TEONDRA B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMS, ABRAHAM J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, ISAIAH J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, NEWAKIS R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ORTIZ, JOSEPH D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROSS, SHANTEL S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRY, DOUGLAS	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRY, DANIEL B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAR, CAMERON R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MITCHELL, SILAS W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PROCTOR, SHAYLN R.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	EDWARDS, RAVEN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURRIS, JAMES G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TARVER, JAMIE D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOYD, PRICILLA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COOPER, JULIETTE YW	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GILLEY, RICKASHAE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WIND, FAITH M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SECHREST, CLAY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KELLY, CHEYENNE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOOPER, TAYLOR D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WELLS, JOSHUA LEE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ALLEN, KATHRYN A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ALLEN, KOURTNEY M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUTCHINS, ASHLEY L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LITTLEHEAD, TOLBY S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SHELL, KAYLEE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	REED, DEVIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAVIS, HAYLEE N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SKEETER, SADIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SKEETER, AUBREY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRADFIELD, TRISTAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WESLEY, AARON J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, CALEB	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUTCHINS, JACOB R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TSO, CORRINA A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BLACKBEAR, MAKAYLA D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BERRYHILL, NOAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROLLAND, JULIAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LITTLE, DALTON M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CRAWFORD, STEPHANIE A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRUNER, PEYTON L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRUNER, CHANTEAL M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MAXWELL, DAVION T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHILDRESS, KOLTON R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PROCTOR, LESLEY R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOWARD, HAYLEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GREENE, DREAMER K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STEPHENS, BLAKE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PHILLIPS, TEVIN L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	VANDERSLICE, JADON E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LITTLEHEAD, TOMMY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHILDRESS, KAITLYNN P	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WHITE, MAYSA Z	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GREENE, DAYLINE J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RUSHING, THADIUS D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LINDSEY, MEGAN N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LONG, JARROD T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LUELLEN, DAKOTA S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SQUIRE, JESSICA P	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STEWART, JORDAN N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TARYOLE, JASON T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	UNDERWOOD, EMILY P	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROEBUCK, AALIYAH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, ZACHARY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROWE, JALEN C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHASTAIN, GEOFFREY T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ELLIG, RUFIS H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOVEJOY, TOBY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MITCHELL, TIMOTHY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BERRYHILL, JORDAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, ALEXANDRIA J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, STELLA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SWEAZEA, CALI R.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, GAVIN JOE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, TAYLOR	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, JOSEPH A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BERRYHILL, DARYN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUCKTROT, BRITTANY A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	THOMAS, DRAVEN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRAZIER, JESSICA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, JACOB D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SANDERS, BROOK	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MOPPIN, KOTCHEA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SCOTT, ANGELINA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	YAHOLA, ESSE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MOPPIN, CHRISTIAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROGERS, ETHAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ELLIS, ASHLEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROGERS, ERIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HENAHA, JASTON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, DAKOTA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, GHASTIN I	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COODY, NICKOLAS	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MOORE, DERRICK	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PINION, SARAH E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	YAHOLA, DAMON W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, DENISE R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	OSBORN, CAMERON J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WRIGHT, JEREMIAH C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	YAHOLA, MICHELLE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DYER, SAMPSON J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHASTAIN, NICHOLAS I	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MOONEY, ASIA T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	IRVING, OCTAVIA H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, GALEN W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, ZANE T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DEER, STARR L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GORDON, CAMERON T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FACTOR, CYNDA G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJOCHEE, MVNECHA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FREEMAN, JOSEPH D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COWAN, GABRIELLE RAE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEEN, SAVANNAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOYD, BRAXTON K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PALMER, JANIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RYAL, KARLIE C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GREEN, ABBIGALE RAE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GRAMMER, SARAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEEN, ASHTON G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, TAYLOR B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PROCTOR, EMILY RAE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRYE, CHITTO	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRONCHO, KAYLA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DORTON, JADEN Z	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MURPHY, ALEIA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, TAYLOR	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEEN, PARRISH A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, ALISSA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRYE, MOLLIE S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HAMRIC, AUNDREA D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCGERTT, NATHANIEL C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BELL, AVERY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MURPHY, BRANNON A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRITT, COLE H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, ASHTYN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KING, WHITNEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCGERTT, JOSEPH D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEWIS, KALIL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BERRY, RILEY S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PRENTISS, MONIQUE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUNN, HALEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, EMILY E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUNN, JEREMY R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BROWNFIELD, TRISDON N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARRIS, KHALIL C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMSON, HUNTER D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMS, ALAYSIA O	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBERTS, MACKENZIE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WYATT, JORDAN K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRENCHMAN, SADIE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRY, BLAKE J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, NATALEE D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STERNER, PAIDEN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, MICHAEL L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TANNER, CHANCE A.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, JOSEPH R.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEMASTERS, LAUREN E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBERTSON, SIERRA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CUNNINGHAM, VALERIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STAFFORD, HEIDI M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CRABTREE, BRIANNA Y	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BENTON, BAILEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MORGAN, GARRISON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAVIDSON, EMILY K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, LANEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUGHES, DEVIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FARROW, KADEN A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMSON, ZACHARY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, CHRISTOPHER G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JACKSON, ELIJAH RONALD LEVI	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNARD, DESTINY C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MILLER, LENNES	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, DYLAN A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCCUTCHEN, NICHOLAS T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CORLEY JR, JIMMIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HENDRICKS, MARIAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FOX, KOTY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COLBERT, KIRSTIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMS, HOLLEY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ANDERSON, KOBE G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COLBURN, BLAKE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, KATIE J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, CHOATE J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUGHES, JARIEL L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCKIBBEN, SETH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MINER, ALEXA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WHITE, ETHANIEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ESLICK, JACK L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LONG JR., DAVID L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WASHINGTON, DAKOTA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURKHALTER JR., FREDRICK	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KHOURY, ASHTON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CAMPBELL, BAILEY S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FLOYD, DANIEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GORE, LOGAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RUSSELL, HUNTER C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CROSBY, HAELEE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHILES, TRENDON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAN, MCKENZIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PRUITT, JAYNA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEVENUE, MYLES C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, ADRIANNA E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JACK, TYLER M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FORD, GUNNER D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RIPPY, JACOB S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TAYLOR, JOHN Z	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GILROY, COLBY S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAVIS, KELCI S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEWIS, NATHAN T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SANCHEZ, KANE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SCOTT, PALMER A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LAUGHLIN, ASHLEY N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEES, AUSTIN J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	THOMPSON, TIFFANY M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SCHOOLEY, COLTON A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CAMPBELL, JENNIFER L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WOOD, JACOB I	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	REEDY, DAWSON B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, MARISSA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, BRADLEY W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, JESSICA A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHILDRESS, JOHNNY L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURRIS, LISA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAVIDSON, TAYLOR	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WALSTON, DESTANY N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCNAC, FAITH A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, SAVANNAH M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, TYLER S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, CHRISTIAN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, KALEEL M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CONDICT, AUSTIN M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEES, JONATHAN B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, MAKAYLA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ALLEN, ADRAYAH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAR, DANIEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, ALEXANDRIA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	EDMERSON, DONAVAN L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GRIFFIN, CARLISSA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	VAN STRATEN, TEA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RAMOS, COLBY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WEBSTER, DEVIN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SIBERT, HAILEY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROSS, NATHAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	REED, KRISTOPHER A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DEARMAN, HANNA G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MASON, LAURA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCCART, OSEA W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LANDSBERRY, KATELYN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TILLEY, VINCENT N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SPRING, LINDSI	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BONHAM, ELIZABETH A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BLACKBEAR, RAVEN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MAXWELL, DYLAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BROWN, LINDSEI	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BANKS, NEWAKIS	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUTCHY, CHEYENNE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KAHBEAH, JOSEPH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SANDERS, MATEO A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JACKSON, CHRISTOPHER C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	AUGUSTINE, SARAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SKINNER, TRIVION	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	VANSTRATEN, HANNAH M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WATSON, LAKOTA J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAILEY, SAMUEL A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRINKLEY, COREON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RAMIREZ, VICTOR	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LANDSBERRY, TANNER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIS, TAREZ L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAILEY, ANIYAH N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PHELPS, NATALIE R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TORBETT, PARKER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WALLACE, CHRISTOPHER S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURRIS, ALEXIS	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARRINGTON, BETHANY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SKINNER, COLIN B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LAWRENCE, TYLER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KNOX, TOLAND	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PINKSTON, ZACHARY A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, LILA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, LEAH ANN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HAMMON, KEONTE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SIX, RACHEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEWIS, MAKIA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEWIS, MICHAEL R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SHIELDS, KIESSENCE	HG 6	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GUYNES, PERCILLA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MAYFIELD, KAMERON M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TIGER, CHASITY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MAYFIELD, BRIAN L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HANUN, JESSICA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SANDERS, SAMUEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KELLY, JANESSAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TIGER, RENAE L.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TIGER, BRENAY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURGESS, JACOB A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DUNN, MICHELLE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, AUDESHA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PROCTOR, MARISSA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WESLEY, TAYLA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MILLER, KYLE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SANDERS, TAIAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	COBB-WALLS, CIERRA A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BOWMAN, COLE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOWE, ISAIAH C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCELHANNON, BRENDEN J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CUSHER, ELIJAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BURRIS, CORDELL	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TATE, JABRION D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	VELEZ, JACOB	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ARNOLD, HUNTER R.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BYRD, ALEC	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PICKETT, THOMAS L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MURRAY, WILLIAM R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GIST, VICTORIA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUGHES, ADRIAN R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BROWN, NIKKIA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BROWN, ANDREA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, CHRISTIAN W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	EDMERSON, DAKOTA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOGGANS, VOREESE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCGRIFF, CALVIN L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILLIAMS, JEREMIAH L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JONES, ALEXUS D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BACON, BRYCE C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, CHEYENNE J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, CHYNIQUA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, CHIAWNA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, CHIAWN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBERTS, MARRIS K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SIBERT, JUSTIN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GRIFFIN III, THESSALY G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BENSON, TALYA D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BENDER, JOSHUA T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCGRIFF, SACHIKO M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KLUTTS, MACKENZIE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUTLER, JACINDA J	HG 06	PROGRAM

NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - Executive Branch

SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TATE, JIMELL C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DAN, ERIC B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAVER, BRONSON R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, DYLAN H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ALLRED, RILEY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FISH, WILLIAM B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JORDAN, KEATON D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JORDAN, HERBERT D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBOL, TYLER C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MORGAN, LAURA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SHIRLEY, WILLIAM D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GOUGE, MADELINE S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MONAHWEE, NAKYIA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MONAHWEE, KIERA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARRINGTON, ARIEL B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GOUTHIER, JOHNESHA D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, CODY J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LONG, HALEY BROOKE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	POWELL, AYLEAH J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BENTON, ZOE R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GILL, JAYCEE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DIGGINS, JOSHUA L.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CRUZ, EMMILLIE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WALLACE, LANE M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBERTS, DARREN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WHITSON, SAGE W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WHITSON, GUNNAR W	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOLT, TY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, RANDY L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RAY, BRANDON W.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO JR., NELSON J.	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BUCKLEY, ALYSSA J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOLATA, JOHNAS	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BIRDCREEK, KAYLA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, SETH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MARSHALL, SETH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, KOBE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WHITE, COLTEN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DONATHAN, SHELBY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WISE, SAMANTHA J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DEERE, KINTV M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, CALEB	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TIGER, TERRANCE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ACOSTA, TYLER C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RAINES, DEVEN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	POSTOAK, NATHAN MACHIAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WEST, TARA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WILSON, NATAIYA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GUINN, BRAEDEN C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PHILLIPS, LIA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOCUST, RANDALL T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, JOHNATHAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	VARNER, NELSON G	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	ROBERTS, WHITNEY S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CAMPBELL, SIERRA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DEERE, KUSKVNA H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GIBSON, ALBERT I	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, JEANNIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, ADAM T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KIEHL, COLTON	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GIBSON, ALVIN E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GARCIA, JESSICA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BRADFORD, KIARA S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HARJO, AUTUMN S	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, TYLER A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TIGER, DALTON C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BEAN, KENZIE N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WEST, ADANA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FIXICO, SINJIN K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FIXICO, CONNER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LOWE, SARA A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HUMMINGBIRD, COLETON J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MARSHALL, CHARLES D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WISE, ANAE Y	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JACOBS, EMILY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	WALLACE JR., TRAVIS D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEE, TAYLER L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CHEATWOOD, JOSEPHYNNE P	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FIXICO, CAMRYN M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	STILES, MIRANDA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, SHAWN D H	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOHNSON, ANGEL N	HG 06	PROGRAM

SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BILLINGS, AUSTIN T	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, TATUM B	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HICKS, ALISHA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOSLIN, TRISTEN M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	KIEHL, BROOK K	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JIMBOY, SYDNEY R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, TYLER	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BIGPOND, CALEB	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MCKINNIE, KRYS SHA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	RENOVA, KATERI	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LEWIS, RIKESHA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TOMPKINS, MACKENZIE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FROST, COURTNEY E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, MICAIAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MARTINEZ, ANNA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HOLT, LOGAN	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	DOYLE, SAMUEL J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JOSIE, KEILAN D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HILL, DEREK C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FRENCH, TORI D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	AL-ARASHUN, NIZAR	HG 6	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SIZEMORE, MAURICE	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	CLOUD, DESTINY L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PRINCE, ANDREA C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BROADHURST, KYLEE R	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	GOLDEN, LATISHA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	BARNETT, BRITTANY	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FARRELL, KAYLA R	HG 6	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	MOODY, KAYLA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	JORDAN, COLEY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FLANARY, GARRETT C	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	PRINCE, ADRIAN J	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	EVANS, JOSHUA	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SQUIRE, REBECCA E	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HAWKINS, BRIANNA D	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	FARRELL, KACEY N	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	LINDSEY, BREANNA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	TOMPKINS, HALEY A	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	SMITH, NIYA M	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	THOMAS, JESSE L	HG 06	PROGRAM
SUMMER YOUTH	SUMMER YOUTH WORKER	HAMILTON, DEREK W	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	BENDER, SHAINA N	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	MARKS, LATRICIA R	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	POTTS, TERESA K	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	TECUMSEH, PAUL D	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	HAGY, MIA F	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	BACON, BRITTANY N	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	LACKEY, LEVI	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	CRAWFORD, LANCE F	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	SMITH, ANDRIA M	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	REVIS, JOSEPH P	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	PINGLETON, WHITNEY A	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	AHTONE, JACOB	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	COOPER, HEATHER N	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	PACK, MICHAEL	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	CLAYTON, GINA L	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	EDMINSTEN-VOTRA, DEANA M	HG 09	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	BACCUS, LASHAUNNA S	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	ROBERTS, JOSHUA	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	KAHBEAH, REBEKAH	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	BEEN, CHEYENNE	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	ROBERTS, ZACHARY	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	JOHNSON, BLAKE A	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	MOUDY, JOSEPH Q	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	FIXICO, CAMERON BLAKE	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	BEARTUSK, BRIAN J	HG 07	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	PROCTOR, AMBERLY D	HG 06	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	MONAHWEE, JEREMY	HG 6	PROGRAM
WIA/WE	WORK EXPERIENCE	HUGHART, JANE	HG 6	PROGRAM

'Muscogee Nation News' explanation of text size limitations

One issue is compatibility between our paper layout program and those used by MCN Finance/Human Resources to compile the information. We place the documents they submit directly in our program rather than pulling each individual's information. This is done in order to save a significant amount of time and drastically eliminate the margin for error on our end. The submitted files create a scaling issue in the way they are sized in contrast to the newspaper pages. The other involves the number of pages we can afford in our budget for each edition. To view the disclosures online visit: http://tinyurl.com/zte7gda.

NCA 82-048 - disclosure of names, grades and compensation - MCN Health Department

Employee_Name	Position	Grade/Step
LITTLEFIELD, BRADAH J.	(A) Administrative Officer	MG 11 Step 3/4
HAWKINS, MICHELLE	(A) Business Office Manager	SG 14 Step 2/3
WOODWARD, TIANA A.	(A) Chief Performance Officer	MG 10 Step 3
BEETS, BILLY C.	(A) CMO	MG 14 Step 10+
ROBERTSON, EMILY N.	(A) Nurse Supervisor	SG 15 Step 4/5
ALEXANDER-ROSS, SHONEEN C	(A) Secretary of Health	MG 12 Step 2
RUSSELL, CINDY	Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
TAMAGE, KENDALL L	Accountant/Financial Analyst	SG 15 Step 2/3
BUCKLEY, SHELIA ANN	Accounting Manager	SG 15 Step 3/4
TIGER, SHERRY D.	Accounts Payable Supervisor	SG 12 Step 4/5
PROCTOR, JOYCE E.	Accounts Payable Tech	SG 9 Step 1/2
HUMBLE, KENDRA	Accounts Payable Tech	SG 11 Step 2/3
RYALS, ANGELA M.	Accounts Receivable Tech	SG 8 Step 3/4
CINDLE, PATSY	Activity Director	SG 9 Step 2/3
DEAN, LEODIA T.	Admin/Billing Assistant	SG 8 Step 4/5
HOWARD, MARY J.	Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
RAMSEY, KRISTI J.	Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 2/3
THOMPSON, CAROL K.	Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 3/4
LEIST, TIFFANY M.	Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 4/5
YARGEE, PAMELA G.	Administrative Assistant	SG 10 Step 2/3
CRANDELL, RHONDA L.	Administrative Assistant	SG 10 Step 2/3
HANEY, JAMIE N.	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 1/2
HARJO, MANDY R.	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 1/2
SUMKA, RACHAEL	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 2/3
LOMBARD, OLIVIA	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 2/3
FIXICO, SARAH	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 2/3
CAMPBELL, JANETTA L.	Administrative Assistant	SG 11 Step 3
RAMSEY, AMANDA L.	Administrative Assistant-cmhi	SG 9 Step 2/3
HARLEY, JASON C.	Administrative Assistant-youth	SG 9 Step 3/4
WILLIAMS, LISA M	Administrative Clerk	SG 10 Step 1/2
ALLEN, SHARON	Ancillary Sev Coder/bc Clk	SG 10 Step 3/4
CLAY, CHERYL	Aquatics Instructor	SG 8 Step 1/2
KNIGHT, KAREN	Asst. Revenue Cycle Mgr	SG 17 Step 2/3
PARKE, SANDRA	Audiologist	MG 10 Step 3/4
GLASS, LEZLIE L.	Audiology Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
PULS, CHRISTOPHER M.	BHS Medical Director	MG 14 Step 10+
KIMZEY, GLENDA	Billing Clerk	SG 6 Step 3/4
KELOUGH, MIRANDA M.	Billing Tech	SG 8 Step 1/2
MANLEY, KARLA S.	Billing Tech	SG 8 Step 1/2
JONES, ADELINE JENICE	Billing Tech	SG 8 Step 2/3
COOK, KRYSTAL M.	Billing Tech	SG 8 Step 3/4
MARTIN, HILLARY	Billing Tech/Wetumka	SG 8 Step 1
COLBERT, ROYCE	Bio Medical Director	SG 16 Step 4/5
GAY, CHARLES D.	Bio Medical Equipment Tech	SG 12 Step 4/5
HAMMITT, DUSTIN N	Budget & Federal Reporting An	SG 12 Step 4/5
BROWN, PAUL E.	Budget Analyst	SG 14 Step 2/3
TAYLOR, JANENE	Business Office Analyst	SG 8 Step 1/2
SHAFFER, JULIE A.	Business Office Coordinator	SG 13 Step 1/2
HICKS, TIMOTHY	Business Office Manager	SG 15 Step 2/3
PERRYMAN, REGINA	Care Manager	SG 14 Step 2/3
PICKERING, JUDITH A.	Caregiver Coordinator	SG 15 Step 2/3
BURNEY, LISA D	Case Management Specialist	SG 11 Step 2
PROCTOR, TWAINNA D	Case Management Specialist	SG 11 Step 2
CHEATWOOD, DARLA J.	Case Manager	SG 15 Step 1/2
HOWELL, SHAWN	Case Manager Nurse	SG 14 Step 3/4
AIRHEART, PEGGY S	Case Manager Nurse	SG 14 Step 3/4
COLBERT, RANDOLPH	Case Manager-BHS	SG 11 Step 1/2
HAWKINS, MINNIE J.	Case Manager-BHS	SG 11 Step 2/3
HIGNITE, LAVERNA M.	Case Manager-chs	SG 12 Step 3/4
CLYMA, BARBARA G.	Case Manager-cmhi	SG 11 Step 1/2
EDMONDS, ASHLEY	Case Manager-Diabetes	SG 14 Step 2/3
HILL, TERI	Cashier	SG 7 Step 3/4
FULTZ, CAROLYN S.	Certified Dietary Manager	SG 9 Step 3/4
SCHMIDT, DARRIN	Certified Dietary Manager	MG 6 Step 2/3
LOYA, LESLIE A	Certified Medical Assistant	SG 8 Step 3/4
LITTLEHEAD, CLAUDINA K	Certified Medical Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
PUTMAN, ANGEL	Certified Nurse Assistant	SG 6 Step 3/4
TARWATER, LINDA	Certified Nurse Assistant	SG 6 Step 3/4
WADDLE, MICHELLE	Certified Nurse Assistant	SG 6 Step 3/4
SUMMERS, RITA	Certified Nurse Assistant	SG 7 Step 3/4
KING, KATELYN	Certified Nurse Assistant/PT	HG 7 Step 1/2
KING, SARAH	Certified Nurse Assistant/PT	HG 7 Step 1/2
MCINTOSH, TYLER L.	CFO	MG 13 Step 1/2
COX, DARREN	Charge Nurse-Dialysis	SG 15 Step 2/3
COFFEY, ROBERT E.	Chief Information Officer	MG 11 Step 4/5
JAMES, ANNETTE	Chief Nurse Officer	MG 12 Step 1
BEAVER, RHONDA K.	Chief Operating Officer	MG 12 Step 1
SMITH, REBECCA L.	Chief Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 4/5
WHITECOTTON, TERRY L.	Chief Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 2/3
HARJO, TENETKE C.	Chiropractor Assistant	SG 8 Step 2/3
SMITH, TYUNA L	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
LONG, JONI D.	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
THOMAS, ERIC D	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
GANN, CAMILLE J	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
WILLIAMS, VIRGINIA N	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
ALLEN, TARA D	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
PLUM, STARLA	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
UNDERWOOD, MONNIE L	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 3/4
LITTLEHEAD, SHIRLEY A.	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 4/5
PROCTOR, BRIAN M.	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 4/5
STARR, AMOS H.	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 4/5
COOK, LUCINDA P.	Chr Generalist	SG 8 Step 4/5
GOODWIN, JULIE	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 1/2
MILLER, CARL E.	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 1/2
WILDCAT, RICHARD B.	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 1/2
WEST, WINEY A.	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 1/2
FIXICO, CURTIS	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 2/3
COOK, GEORGIA	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 2/3
JONES, BONNIE	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 3/4
DICKERSON, ETTA	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 3/4
SCOTT, EDWARD E.	Chr Generalist	SG 9 Step 4/5
FRANKLIN, SUZANNA J.	Chr Generalist	SG 10 Step 1/2
FACTOR, NANCY J.	Chr Generalist-roving	SG 8 Step 3/4
GILKS, CYNTHA A.	Chr Manager	MG 7 Step 4/5
BUCKTROT JR, WADE L.	Chr Transporter	SG 8 Step 3/4
BERRYHILL, DELAINA E.	Chs Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
NIEDO, GENA F.	Chs Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
SANDERS, SAMMI	Chs Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
BAKER, SHANNON L	Chs Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
PROCTOR, FALLON M.	Chs Account Support Specialist	SG 9 Step 3/4
CANARD, LEANDRA R.	Chs Analyst	SG 9 Step 2
HICKS, RICHENDA D	Chs Clerk	SG 8 Step 2
MONAHWEE, DUSTYE D.	Chs Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
MARSHALL, ROBIN M.	Chs Coordinator	SG 8 Step 2/3
THOMAS, SHELLIE L.	Chs Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
SIMPSON, BRANDI K.	Chs Coordinator	SG 9 Step 2/3
VANSTRATEN-TATE, TRICIA L.	Chs Coordinator	SG 9 Step 2/3
HANEY, JAMIE N.	Chs Lead Account Support Specialist	SG 10 Step 3/4
LAL, SUSAN A.	Chs Tech	SG 8 Step 2/3
SAVAGE, KERRI A.	Chs Tech	SG 8 Step 3/4
CRAWFORD, MARJORIE L.	Chs Tech	SG 8 Step 3/4
CHEATWOOD, CANDACE M	Chs Tech	SG 10 Step 2/3
MOORE, VERNA	Clerk/Baker/Part Time	HG 8 Step 3/4
GUTIERREZ, JESSE A.	Clinical Applications Administrator	SG 14 Step 2
DJOGAN, DJOGAN	Clinical Dept Business Manager	MG 12 Step 2/3
JENKINS, KIMBERLEE R.	Clinical Director	MG 13 Step 4/5
VARK, LAWRENCE	Clinical Director	MG 14 Step 10+
CORBIN, KRISTIN K	Clinical Education Coordinator	SG 15 Step 4/5
KEELE, VICTORIA	Clinical Home Health Supervisor	SG 15 Step 1/2
SAVAGE, CHARLOTTE K	Clinical Social Worker	MG 7 Step 3/4
JANOUSEK, JENNIFER L.	Clinician	SG 12 Step 1/2
LEBLANC, ROBIN L.	Clinician	SG 12 Step 2/3
ROGERS, CARLA J	Clinician	SG 14 Step 1
PRIEST, MAUREEN E	Clinician	HG 17 Step 7/8
BAKER, SUE N.	Clinician	HG 17 Step 7/8
HARJO, LAUREN	Clinician/lcsw	SG 13 Step 3/4
HUDGINS, DEBRA L.	Clinician-youth Wellness	SG 12 Step 1/2
SHARP, ERICA R.	CNA	SG 6 Step 3
DENNIS, CHEYENNE R	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
FULTZ, TABRESHIA K	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
FARROW, WILLIE	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
YOUNG, JAMES Y	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
LEWIS, BILLIE E	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
JONES, MICHELLE R.	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
BAKER, SEAN P	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
CLOUD, LACRESHIA M	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
CARTER, BRIANNA M	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
COLE, ANDREA K	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
HALL, ANGELA M	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
BRANT, TINA	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
JEFFREY, LORANA BEVERLY BEF	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
NASH, SYLVIA	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
GRUMMITT, SHERRI	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
NICHOLS, ASHLEY	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
SHORT, RACHEL	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
WILLIAMS, CARLA	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
SHERRELL, DELLA E	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
DUNN, ANDREA L	CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
DESHAZER, RELDA	CNA	SG 8 Step 2/3
PAYNE, DINISHA	CNA	SG 8 Step 3
PHILLIPS, VANESSA M	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
BULLETT, JAYMEE L	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
BRANUM, SHANDA R	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
WACOCHE, JOANNA M	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
GILROY, COURTNEY L	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
LOPER, LATOYA M	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
MURPHY, AREONA D	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
LOONEY, SHAWNNA R	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
PIKE, ANGELA B	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
MAYHEW, MARSHA D	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
SPRADLIN, AMY	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
MICHELS, DEBORAH L	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
WATSON, JANIE M	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
COMPTON, GARYRIUNA L	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
HART, REBECCA J	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
BERRYHILL, ALLISON	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
BLEEKER, DENA	CNA-floatpool	HG 8 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, LISA D.	CNS Wound Care Specialist, ARNP	MG 12 Step 4/5
POWELL, YVETTE	Coding Specialist	SG 8 Step 3/4
FROMAN, SUSAN E.	Coding Specialist	SG 8 Step 3/4
EASH, TERESA L.	Coding Specialist	SG 9 Step 3/4
LINDSEY, ANNA	Coding Specialist	SG 10 Step 1/2
WELCH, TAMMY L.	Coding Specialist Certified	SG 9 Step 4/5
WARD, CINDY L.	Coding Specialist Certified	SG 9 Step 4/5
YAHOLA, KUNAWV	Coding Specialist Certified	SG 9 Step 4/5
FROSS, PAMELA A.	Coding Specialist Certified	SG 10 Step 1/2
DWIGGINS, LILLY	Coding Specialist/Data Entry/Home I	SG 10 Step 4/5
GARMAN, KASIE L	Coding Specialist-Wetumka	SG 8 Step 1
COACHMAN, DENISE C.	Coding Specialist-Wetumka	SG 8 Step 2
TAYLOR, LUCAS	Communications Coordinator	SG 13 Step 1/2
AGUILAR, CHERYL L.	Community Prevention/Complicat	SG 9 Step 3/4
DOKE, AARON W.	Computer Technician	SG 11 Step 1/2
FREEMAN, SHERRI L	Computer Technician	SG 11 Step 2/3
LYKINS, AMY J.	Computer Technician	SG 11 Step 3/4
HENLEY, DAVID	Computer Technician	SG 11 Step 4/5
WHEELER, ANDY R.	Computer Technician	SG 12 Step 4/5
RUSSELL, SHEILA	Contract Health Coordinator	SG 12 Step 2/3
FOREMAN, LESLIE S.	Contract Health Specialist	SG 9 Step 1/2
TONEY, LISA	Cook	SG 6 Step 3/4
SPARKS, KAREN R.	Cook	SG 6 Step 4/5
BRITT, LILLIE A.	Cook	SG 8 Step 2/3
BENNETT, NANCY	Cook Float pool	HG 8 Step 2/3
FIFE, BRANDY C.	Coordinator/Educator	SG 14 Step 1/2
HUMBLE, ETHEL M.	Coordinator/Secretary	SG 9 Step 4/5
FIXICO, BRANDON	Courier/Material Clerk	SG 9 Step 3/4
BRUCE, JASON	CRNA	MG 14 Step 10+
GALLEGOS, DAVID	CT Technologist	SG 15 Step 2/3
JACOBS-BELDEN, TINA	CT/mammo Tech	SG 14 Step 3/4
ROBINSON, AUDREY	CT/ULT/n Med Spec	SG 14 Step 4/5
BARTLETT, TOMMY	Custodian	HG 7 Step 1/2
CAMPBELL, GINA	Custodian	SG 6 Step 3/4
SHORE, DARLENE	Custodian	SG 6 Step 3/4
CASTIN, DONNA	Data Processing Clerk	SG 6 Step 3/4
MARTIN, CARLA R.	Data Transfer Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
PEBSWORTH, AVEREY B	Dental Assistant	SG 7 Step 4/5
LANDERS, MARISA C	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 2/3
HALTOM, JESSICA D	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 2/3
CHEWEY, REBECCA M.	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 3/4
KRAEMER, BRITTANY	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 3/4
BUCKLEY, JACQUELYN K.	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 4/5
MCBROOM, MELODY F.	Dental Assistant	SG 8 Step 4/5
WATASHE, TRINA	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
MARTIN, VICKIE M.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
DANKER, JODI L.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
MORGAN, WHITNEY M	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 2/3
LEMASTER, BRITTANY N.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 3/4
LOWE, KELLY	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 4/5
SPRINGWATER, JOSHUA J.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 4/5
PASCALE, AMBER M.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 4/5
LOWE, ALICIA K.	Dental Assistant	SG 9 Step 4/5
ERBY, KRISTI	Dental Assistant	SG 10 Step 2/3
GARVIN, RACHEL L.	Dental Assistant	SG 10 Step 2/3
MAYS, SHERYL D.	Dental Assistant	SG 10 Step 3/4
CARGIL, JANET L.	Dental Assistant	SG 10 Step 4/5
PROCTOR, GEORGIA	Dental Assistant	SG 11 Step 1/2
SCHMIDT, JACQUELINE L.	Dental Assistant Supervisor	SG 11 Step 1/2
BARNETT, JEANETTA	Dental Assistant-(expanded Fun	SG 8 Step 4/5
SHELDON, MISTY	Dental Clinic Supervisor	MG 14 Step 9/10
HARRISON, RONALD	Dental Clinic Supervisor	MG 14 Step 10+
CAO, BRANDY R.	Dental Hygienist	SG 15 Step 2/3
MCGEE, AMBER M.	Dental Hygienist	SG 16 Step 1/2
LENARD, LOREN L.	Dental Hygienist	SG 16 Step 2/3
WHEELER, SUSAN R.	Dental Hygienist	SG 16 Step 2/3
HOUSE, EMILY A.	Dental Hygienist	SG 16 Step 3/4
SHATTUCK, SHELLY L	Dental Hygienist	SG 17 Step 5/6
MYERS, JONLEA	Dental Lab Tech Assistant	SG 8 Step 2/3
BECK, DORELLE L.	Dental Office Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
RINGGOLD, DONNA F.	Dental Office Coordinator	SG 9 Step 2/3
JACKSON, LISA	Dental Support Assistant	SG 8 Step 1/2
SELZ, SCOTT E	Dentist	MG 14 Step 10+
ADOLPH, KATHLEEN A.	Dentist	MG 14 Step 10+
DALE, BREANNA RENE	Diabetes Dietitian	SG 13 Step 3/4
WILLIAMS, TAYLOR D	Diabetes Dietitian	SG 13 Step 4/5
FRANKLIN, CHARLENE	Diabetes Dietitian	SG 14 Step 3/4
DURBIN, KATHY L.	Diabetes Dietitian	SG 14 Step 3/4
SIPE, MELANIE	Diabetes Dietitian	HG 15 Step 4/5
PARNELL, MARY	Diabetes Dietitian part time	HG 16 Step 1/2
CHILES, CHAPPELL D.	Diabetes Educator/Coordinator	SG 13 Step 4/5
BATEMAN, GARRICA L.	Diabetes Educator/Coordinator	SG 14 Step 1/2
KORF, JULIE M.	Diabetes Educator/Coordinator	SG 14 Step 3/4
DIVELBISS, NATALIE A.	Diabetes Educator/Coordinator	SG 15 Step 3/4
LITTLE, KIMBERLEE M.	Diabetes Exercise Program Manager	SG 12 Step 4/5
FIXICO, WILLIAM	Diabetes Exercise Program Manager	SG 13 Step 1/2
THOMPSON, PAUL TAYLOR	Diabetes Exercise Program Manager	SG 13 Step 2/3
MEADOWS, DUANE A.	Diabetes Exercise Program Manager	SG 14 Step 1/2
FIXICO, PRISCILLA J	Diabetes Leap Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
FRENGER, REBECCA G	Diabetes Nurse Case Manager	SG 13 Step 3/4
LEMON, EDITH D.	Diabetes Program Clerk-koweta	SG 8 Step 2/3
SMITH, MARY S.	Diabetes Program Clerk-okemah	SG 8 Step 2/3
LEWIS, BARBARA R	Diabetes Program Clerk-okmulge	SG 8 Step 2/3
MILLER, NANCY W.	Diabetes Program Clerk-spaulpa	SG 8 Step 2/3
IVERSON, SHARON	Diabetes Program Manager	MG 9 Step 4/5
SIMPSON, SHARI	Diagnostic Scans Supervisor	MG 9 Step 3/4
JONES, VENUS	Dialysis Nurse Manager	SG 16 Step 3/4
NEWCOMB, TAMARA C.	Director BHS	MG 12 Step 4/5
COOK, JAMIE	Director of Dental Services	MG 14 Step 10+
BEDDOW, KATRINA	Director of Health Info Svc	MG 9 Step 2/3
HILL, SAMMY D.	Director of Laboratory Service	MG 9 Step 4/5
MYERS, CHARLES	Director of Nursing/Manager	SG 16 Step 3/4
TIGER, PETER J.	Director of Radiology	MG 9 Step 2/3
YARHOLAR, THOMAS C.	Director of Security Services	SG 13 Step 1/2

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SQUIRREL, LUCILLE	Dispatcher	SG 10 Step 1/2
SMITH, JANICE L.	Dispatcher	SG 10 Step 2
OWEN, JENNIFER	Drug Room Clerk	SG 9 Step 2/3
EARTLY, MICHELLE	Emergency Room Manager	SG 16 Step 3/4
BURKHALTER, FRANCHELLE L.	Employee Health Coordinator	SG 14 Step 4/5
ENGLER, TREVER R.	EMS Supervisor	SG 14 Step 2/3
LAVIGNE, BRUCE CODY	EMT Advanced	SG 10 Step 2/3
FOSTER, BRAD A	EMT Advanced Float pool	HG 9 Step 4/5
CATHEY JR., DONALD T.	EMT Basic	SG 7 Step 1/2
HIBBEN, BOBBY J.	EMT Basic	SG 7 Step 1/2
AUSTIN, ANTHONY	EMT Basic	SG 7 Step 4/5
HARJO, LEROY	EMT Basic	SG 8 Step 1/2
HEWITT, TRAVIS O.	EMT Basic	SG 8 Step 2/3
WATSON JR., GREGORY D	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 1/2
YOUNG, MATTHEW W	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 1/2
FORGETTE, DELAINA B	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 2
SMOCK II, EDWARD J	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 2
MADEWELL, CRYSTAL D	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 2
ANDERSON, LORI B	EMT Basic (float)	HG 7 Step 3/4
THETFORD, RICHARD K.	EMT Intermediate	SG 9 Step 3/4
MAYFIELD, JOHNNY D.	EMT Intermediate	SG 9 Step 4/5
MCCOY, ERIC D	EMT Intermediate (float)	HG 9 Step 4/5
RICHMOND, JOSEPH R.	EMT Paramedic	SG 10 Step 3
MCCOLLOM, SHANE L.	EMT Paramedic	SG 10 Step 3/4
HALEY, DUKE	EMT Paramedic (float-pool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
CUNNINGHAM, RHONDA D.	Environmental Support Supervisor	SG 11 Step 1/2
ARMSTRONG, BILLIE L.	Environmental Tech	SG 6 Step 3/4
FIELDS, DARREN W	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 1/2
SAMUEL JR., MICHEAL	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 1/2
BARNETT, KEVIN C	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 1/2
REPLOGLE, HELEN B.	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 2/3
HARJO, ALICE M.	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 2/3
HAWKINS, TRAVIS W	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 2/3
BEAR, FRED G	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 2/3
HARJO, BETTY A	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 2/3
CYPERT, NANCY A	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 3/4
WOODS, BARBARA J.	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 3/4
ALBERSON, JENNIE	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 3/4
HARJO, MARCUS W	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 3/4
GIVENS, JESSE D.	Environmental Tech	SG 7 Step 4
MORGAN, RACHEL	Executive Secretary	SG 11 Step 1/2
MCBEE, GALA	Facilities Administrator	MG 12 Step 3/4
WOOLSEY, TIMOTHY J.	Facilities Management Officer	MG 10 Step 4/5
HILL, KENNETH	Facilities Manager	SG 14 Step 1/2
MCDERMOTT, MICAH D.	Facility Technician	SG 7 Step 2/3
ANNAN, TERESA	Financial Counselor	SG 8 Step 1/2
AIKINS, CRYSTAL D.	Financial Support Tech	SG 11 Step 4/5
SCHULTZ, KEVIN J.	Financial Systems Admin	SG 15 Step 2/3
ISHMAEL, RHETA	Follow-up Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
HANEY, MICHAEL L	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3
BOLING, PATSY	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3/4
LOVETT, MARVA	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3/4
FARRILL, SHARON	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3/4
HANKINS, JUDY	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3/4
SLANEY, ALICE	Food Service Worker	SG 6 Step 3/4
SULLIVAN, RON	Food Services Manager	SG 12 Step 1/2
TATE, WANDA	Food Services Supervisor	SG 10 Step 4/5
ROGERS, CLONDA E.	G/L Accountant/Cash Mgmt	SG 15 Step 1/2
MITCHELL, THOMAS	General Ledger Acct	SG 14 Step 1/2
GILBERT, JAMES	General Services Supervisor	SG 11 Step 3/4
FIFE, THOMASINE L.	GLS/YW Coordinator	SG 15 Step 2
YARGEE, MELINDA	Health Administrator	MG 9 Step 2/3
LEE, KARA L	Health Administrator	MG 10 Step 2/3
ROBISON II, BERT H.	Health Administrator	MG 10 Step 2/3
WHITLOW, REBECCA J.	Health Administrator	MG 10 Step 4/5
SHARBER, SHERYL L.	Health Administrator	MG 11 Step 2/3
MANOUS, SHAMEKA	Health Information Coordinator	SG 8 Step 4/5
BAUGHMAN, DEBBIE	Health Information Manager	SG 11 Step 4/5
BEAVER, JOHN	Health Legislative Officer	MG 11 Step 1/2
MERCHANT, ASHLEIGH D.	Help Desk Administrator	SG 12 Step 1/2
DUNSON, MARTY C.	Help Desk Representative	SG 10 Step 3/4
COWANS, CHARLOTTE	Home Health Director	MG 9 Step 3/4
PICKERING, SHERIDAN A.	Hospital Administrator	MG 11 Step 1/2
RIKER, SHARON	Hospital Applications Administrator	MG 9 Step 3/4
WALTERS, LOUANNE	Hospital Applications Trainer	SG 15 Step 4/5
HENNIGH, ELEXIS A.	Hospital Informatics Manager	SG 16 Step 3/4
VIRGIL, THERESA M.	Housekeeping	SG 7 Step 3/4
FIELDS, FREDA	HR Analyst	SG 12 Step 3/4
TORBETT, RUSSELL B.	HR Director	MG 10 Step 1/2
ORTIZ, SALLIE M.	HR Info System Specialist	SG 12 Step 4/5
HENSON, TERRI	HR specialist	SG 12 Step 4/5
ATWELL, DENAYE	Human Resource Manager	SG 13 Step 2/3
LANDERS, LABRISTA P.	Human Resource Manager	SG 13 Step 3/4
SMITH, JEREMY W.	Human Resource Manager	SG 13 Step 4/5
GORDON, TINA	Infection Preventionist	SG 15 Step 4/5
PETERS, AUNDRA D.	Infection Preventionist	SG 17 Step 2/3
BANTA, CHRISTINA C.	Information Security Analyst	SG 14 Step 1/2
HALL, NATALIE J	In-patient Chief Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 2/3
ROWE, JERALD K.	In-patient Chief Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
CAZENAVE, SHARON	In-patient Services Clerk	SG 8 Step 4/5
POLECAT, GEORGE E.	Inventory Analyst	SG 11 Step 4/5
WASHINGTON, ROBERT D.	Inventory Specialist	SG 9 Step 3/4
KRUEGER, KRISTOPHER	IT Manager	MG 10 Step 1/2
WEBB, ANGELIA S.	IT Trainer	SG 15 Step 1
DUNN, JAMIE	Lab Manager	SG 13 Step 4/5
DRUMGO, ENSIE	Lab Manager	MG 9 Step 2/3
CROW, DAWN	Lab Secretary/phlebotomist	SG 8 Step 2/3
HICKS, TACIA L	Lab/X-ray Registration Temp	HG 7 Step 4
EDWARDS, BRIAN	Laboratory Assistant	SG 8 Step 3/4
MAYES, RONDA	Laboratory Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
SPEER, LAUREN K.	Ladc Clinician	SG 12 Step 3
MORRIS, STACY L	LCSW - Early Child Consult	SG 13 Step 1
MOORE, MARSHA	LCSW Clinician	SG 12 Step 1/2
PETERSON, GAY L.	LCSW Clinician	SG 12 Step 2/3
LOWE, PATRICIA A.	Lead Billing Tech	SG 11 Step 1/2
FRASER, AMBER D.	Lead CHS Coordinator	SG 10 Step 1/2
FRANKS, CATHY A.	Lead Clinic Biller	SG 11 Step 1/2
PETERS, LISA G.	Lead Coding Supervisor	SG 14 Step 3/4
MONTGOMERY, JANICE	Lead LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
HENSHAW, CAROL	Lead LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
JONES, IDELLA	Lead Outpatient Admit Clk	SG 9 Step 4/5
BRITT, SHARON G.	Lead Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 10 Step 4
TEHEE, ERIC F.	Lead Security Guard	SG 7 Step 2/3
JONES, LORI A	Lead Surgery Technologist	SG 11 Step 4/5
BELL, MARTHA S.	Lead Voucher Examiner	SG 10 Step 2/3
ELERICK, KAREN	Leap Coordinator	SG 14 Step 3/4
JUMPER, LORETTA M.	Leap Nurse	SG 13 Step 4/5
ROBERTSON, TIFFANY J	Leap Nurse	SG 14 Step 1/2
COBB, STEPHANIE	Lpc Lbp Lmft Clinician	MG 12 Step 4/5
BURNSIDE, MICHAEL	Lpc Lbp Lmft Clinician	SG 13 Step 2
KEPLINGER, TRUMAN K.	Lpc Lbp Lmft Clinician	SG 13 Step 4
MURPHY, AMBER	LPN	SG 9 Step 4/5
GUYNES, APRIL D	LPN	SG 10 Step 1
COMBEST, KRISTA LAINE	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
DARROW, RENEE	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
TODD, ASHLEY	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
UPLINGER, CHARLENA	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
NICHOLS, ANNIE C.	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
FIXICO, TANNA K.	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
PRINCE, JENNIFER A.	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
CRAWFORD, JO L.	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
MAYBERRY, JOSHUA D	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
WILLIAMS, GISELA L	LPN	SG 10 Step 1/2
BERRYHILL, ASHLEY D.	LPN	SG 10 Step 2/3
GIBBS, SHELLISE	LPN	SG 10 Step 2/3
STACY, WENDY L	LPN	SG 10 Step 2/3
NED, VICKI J.	LPN	SG 10 Step 2/3
SIMMERS, TARA	LPN	SG 10 Step 2/3
PRIDE, ANGELEA M	LPN	SG 10 Step 3/4
SKINNER, CRYSTAL M.	LPN	SG 10 Step 3/4
THOMAS, ANITA J.	LPN	SG 10 Step 3/4
PATTERSON, JERI L.	LPN	SG 10 Step 3/4
VAUGHN, JANNA R.	LPN	SG 10 Step 3/4
BARNETT, TEANNA N	LPN	SG 10 Step 4/5
TURKNETT, AMANDA R.	LPN	SG 10 Step 4/5
TIGER, KELLI M.	LPN	SG 10 Step 4/5
MILLER, JENNIFER L	LPN	SG 10 Step 4/5
THOMPSON, JENNIFER	LPN	SG 10 Step 4/5
SWITZER, AMBER L.	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
MILLER, DENICE	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
KENNEDA, CHARLOTTE	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
LOWE, BRENDA K.	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
WARD, SHELLEY L.	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
CULVER, STEPHANIE K.	LPN	SG 11 Step 1/2
ZACKERY, JENNIFER M.	LPN	SG 11 Step 2/3
MOORE, DELISA G.	LPN	SG 11 Step 2/3
BONHAM, MACHELLE R.	LPN	SG 11 Step 2/3
SLOAN, VIRGINIA M.	LPN	SG 11 Step 3
MATTHEWS, CAROLYN	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
DEVINE, SHELIA	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
HYAMS, SHERYLD	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
HARLEY, CINDY	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
GOOD, SHERYL	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
WOODS, CINDY	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
HAMPTON, MELODY S.	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, CAMELLIA	LPN	SG 11 Step 3/4
GATLIN, KIM J	LPN	SG 11 Step 4/5
BETTERTON, LYNETTE K.	LPN	SG 11 Step 4/5
BRYANT, SHERRY H	LPN	SG 12 Step 2/3
PATTERSON, TERRI L.	LPN	SG 12 Step 2/3
HUNTER, TODD	LPN	SG 12 Step 4/5
DANIELS, KIMBERLY D	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
ALEXANDER, APRIL	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
FARRIS, RINDA M.	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 2/3
EARLS, JENNIFER D	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 3/4
GAVIN, EMILY L.	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 3/4
LEYBAS, CYNTHIA L	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
CAPPS, JUDY R	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
MCCORMICK, SEANA R	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
BAUGHMAN, RITA L	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
GRAMMER, SARAH A	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
KEESEE, ALICIA M.	LPN (Floatpool)	HG 12 Step 2/3
HARRISON, MARQUETTA A.	LPN Dialysis	SG 11 Step 2/3
ETCITTY, LENITA R.	LPN Peds	SG 11 Step 1/2
CREASON, NINA R.	LPN Peds	SG 11 Step 3/4
TUGGLE, LESHON	LPN Peds	SG 11 Step 3/4
HILL, DEBBIE	LPN/Part Time	HG 10 Step 3/4
ELLIS, DETRA	LPN/Part Time	HG 11 Step 4/5

WHEELER, ELIZABETH	LPN-MED/SURG	SG 10 Step 2/3
HARJO, LINDA K.	LPN-MED/SURG	SG 10 Step 3/4
MATTHEWS, JEANIE	LTACH Nurse Supervisor	SG 14 Step 1/2
LITTLEHEAD, JIM W.	Maintenance & Operation Supe	SG 13 Step 2/3
MOONEY, MARCY L.	Maintenance & Operation Supe	MG 8 Step 3/4
JONES, JIMMY	Maintenance Tech	SG 8 Step 3
MINTER, RANDY	Maintenance Tech	SG 9 Step 1/2
STOTTS, RANDY L.	Maintenance Tech	SG 9 Step 1/2
LINDEMANN, CRAIG	Maintenance Tech	SG 9 Step 2/3
TACKETT, PATRICK K	Maintenance Tech	SG 9 Step 4/5
TAYLOR, OZIAS H.	Maintenance Tech	SG 10 Step 2/3
NICHOLS, TERRY	Maintenance Tech	SG 10 Step 3/4
BRITT, DEVIN	Maintenance Tech	SG 10 Step 3/4
MORGAN, TIMOTHY	Maintenance Tech	SG 10 Step 4/5
TREAGESSER, RYAN H	Maintenance Tech	SG 10 Step 4/5
LOWE, TIMOTHY R.	Maintenance Tech	SG 11 Step 1/2
HERNDON, MICHAEL K	Maintenance Tech	SG 11 Step 3/4
EVANS, DANNY	Maintenance Tech	SG 12 Step 3/4
HARJO, STEPHEN A.	Maintenance Tech	SG 12 Step 3/4
WALKER, HAROLD	Maintenance Tech	SG 12 Step 4/5
HARGIS, TERESA	Manager Of Surgery Services	SG 16 Step 1/2
BOSWELL, REBECCA	Manager Respiratory Therapy	SG 14 Step 3/4
HARJOCHEE, JESS	Materials Clerk	SG 9 Step 4/5
DIXON, FRANCIS GALEENE	Materials Management Specialist	SG 10 Step 1/2
HENNEHA, DARLENE	Materials Management Specialist	SG 11 Step 1/2
HILL, CRUZ L.	Materials Management Tech I	SG 7 Step 3/4
WALTON, JOHN B.	Materials Management Tech I	SG 8 Step 2/3
MCHENRY, JAMES L.	Materials Management Tech I	SG 9 Step 2/3
GRANT, JOYCE	Materials Management Tech II	SG 7 Step 3/4
LOWE, FRANKLIN T.	Materials Management Tech II	SG 8 Step 3/4
BRYANT, CURTIS	Materials Management Tech II	SG 9 Step 3/4
PROE, DIANA L.	Med. Lab Tech/Safety Officer	SG 15 Step 3/4
HARRY, LINDSLEY M.	Media Outreach Specialist	SG 11 Step 3/4
HERNANDEZ, AYRIAN	Media Outreach Specialist	SG 11 Step 3/4
FOX, CARRIE M	Medical Assistant	SG 7 Step 2/3
BARRETT, NATASHA R	Medical Assistant	SG 7 Step 2/3
NAJERA, KATELYN N.	Medical Assistant	SG 7 Step 2/3
HOLT, BRENDA D	Medical Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
LOLLIS, ANDREA	Medical Assistant	SG 9 Step 3/4
ALLEN, ALEIGHIA C	Medical Assistant - Part Time	HG 6 Step 5
CUNNINGHAM, BRANDY C.	Medical Informatics Mgr.	MG 9 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, LINDA J	Medical Lab Technologist	SG 11 Step 3/4
JANES, KAYLA A.	Medical Lab Technologist	SG 12 Step 4/5
WOOD, MICHAEL	Medical Lab Technologist	SG 12 Step 4/5
BIGHEAD, TAMARA R.	Medical Lab Technologist	SG 12 Step 4/5
DUNCAN, LINDA S.	Medical Lab Technologist	SG 14 Step 2/3
BERRYHILL, ASHLEY J.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 7 Step 2/3
CANTRELL, STEPHANIE L.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
LEFTWICH, MELANIE L.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
HARJO, MARCIANA K.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
MURPHY, JARED R	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
WILSON, KAYMETRIA D.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
RAINWATER, TAMMY F.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
EATON, KRISTIN R.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
JACKSON, BARBARA C.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
WASHINGTON, EMILY D.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
HICKS, DARIA	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
MOSCO, ATHA	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
SULLIVAN, BEVERLY	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, LISA K.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
HILL, LILLIE A.	Medical Records Clerk	SG 8 Step 4/5
DILDINE, TERESA	Medical Records Manager	SG 12 Step 3/4
THOMAS, HENRYETTA	Medical Records Supv.	SG 9 Step 2/3
MCINTOSH, CHRISTINA	Medical Records Supv.	SG 9 Step 2/3
GIBSON, BONNIE E	Medical Records Supv.	SG 9 Step 4/5
MARSEY, MICHELLE D.	Medical Records Supv.	SG 10 Step 3/4
BERRYHILL, TAMARA	Medical Records Supv.	SG 12 Step 4/5
STOOPS, LANITA J.	Medical Staff Coordinator	SG 13 Step 4/5
CHILDRESS, SANDRA J	Medical Tech	SG 12 Step 2/3
BONNER, BRITTNEY J.	Medical Tech	SG 12 Step 3/4
FEHSE, CHARMIN S.	Medical Tech	SG 13 Step 3/4
SIROY, PHELDA M	Medical Tech	SG 14 Step 3/4
ALEXANDER, DAWN L.	Medical Tech Supervisor	SG 14 Step 2/3
WHITE JR, CHARLES	Medical Tech Supervisor	SG 17 Step 3/4
GRIZZLE, ROBIN S.	Medical Technologist (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 1/2
CASSELMAN, BENITA J	Medical Technologist (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
MCDONALD, DEVIN R	Medical Technologist (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
BARTLING, MILTON	Medical Technologist (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
MADDOX, MICHAEL G	MLT	SG 12 Step 3/4
SCOTT, KERRY	MLT	SG 13 Step 2/3
MAURICIO, ANDREA L.	MLT- Float pool	HG 14 Step 1/2
STRAIN, SHELLY A	MRI Tech Float pool	HG 16 Step 1/2
COTNER, DARBYE A	MRI Tech Float pool	HG 16 Step 1/2
BEAR, SALLIE A	MRI Technologist	SG 14 Step 3/4
WHEELER, RONNETTA D	MRI Technologist	SG 14 Step 4/5
DAVIS, CYNTHIA A.	MT	SG 12 Step 4/5
PUCKETT, BLAKE A.	MT/MLT	SG 14 Step 1/2
EDLICH, AMY C	MT/MLT	SG 14 Step 1/2
SEGARS, LINDA	Nuclear Medicine Technologist	SG 15 Step 4/5
DUNLAP, TRACY	Nurse Case Manager	SG 14 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, CARMEN L	Nurse Case Manager	SG 14 Step 3/4
MCBRIDE, MARLENE	Nurse Practitioner	MG 12 Step 3/4
PATCHIN, JENNIFER C.	Nurse Practitioner	MG 12 Step 3/4
KERR-COLBERT, KRISTEN D.	Nurse Practitioner	MG 12 Step 4/5
GARNER, TERI M.	Nurse Practitioner	MG 13 Step 1/2
BERRY, MYRA	Nurse Practitioner	MG 13 Step 1/2
SALSMAN, KRYSTON L	Nurse Practitioner	MG 12 Step 1/2
ARNOLD, JEANNIE	Nurse Practitioner (Floatpool)	MG 13 Step 1/2
BYRD, SHELLI R	Nurse Staffing Coord.	SG 11 Step 4/5
FREAND, CAROLITTA	Nurse Tech Float pool	HG 7 Step 4/5
ISHAM, ARLENE L.	Nursing Supervisor	SG 14 Step 3/4
HOLMES, SHELBEY J	Nursing Supervisor	SG 14 Step 4/5
BELL, JOAN	Nutrition Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
MCKEE, CHELSIE	Occupational Therapist	SG 16 Step 3/4
GREEN, JASON C	Occupational Therapist	SG 16 Step 3/4
VITALE, NORA	Occupational Therapist Asst I	SG 12 Step 2/3
BELL, WILLIAM	Occupational Therapist Asst I	SG 12 Step 3/4
TAYLOR, CYNTHIA	Occupational Therapist Asst I	SG 12 Step 4/5
TEETER, RAELYN	Occupational Therapist Manager	SG 16 Step 2/3
BURNS, AMANDA R.	Office Assistant	SG 8 Step 2/3
PEAVLER, CAROLYN M.	Office Assistant	SG 10 Step 2/3
BEATTIE, KIMBERLY	Office Assistant	SG 10 Step 3/4
SMITH, CARLA	Office Clerk	SG 6 Step 3/4
SMITH, GALE	Office Manager	SG 10 Step 3/4
AMBLER, MELISSA C.	Office Manager	SG 10 Step 3/4
BRANCH, LAURA S.	Office Manager	SG 10 Step 4/5
MEDLOCK, SUZAN R.	Operations Manager	SG 13 Step 1
BARTSCHI, JAIME L	OPSC/OR Supervisor	SG 15 Step 3/4
JOHNSON, BRANDI L.	Optometrist	MG 13 Step 2/3
BUSH, TERRY A.	Optometrist	MG 14 Step 1/2
WHITLOW, PHILIP E.	Optometrist	MG 14 Step 9/10
HARJO, SHARLA J.	Optometrist Assistant	SG 8 Step 4/5
HALL, MEREDITH J.	Optometry Technician	SG 8 Step 1/2
SEALS, HAILEY J	Optometry Technician	HG 8 Step 3/4
LOWE, BRANDY M	Optometry Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
WHITE, ANITA	Optometry Technician	SG 8 Step 3/4
PICKERING, MYRA L.	Optometry Technician	SG 9 Step 1/2
HAGY, SHELLY R.	Optometry Technician	SG 10 Step 3
MARSHALL, KAYLA M.	Orthodontic Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
NICHOLS, THERRON S	Orthopedic Surgeon	MG 14 Step 10+
THOMPSON, SHERRY E.	Outpatient Billing Supervisor	SG 13 Step 1/2
WILKINS, JUDY R	Outpatient Cardiac RN	SG 14 Step 4/5
WIND, TRAVIS	Paramedic	SG 10 Step 3/4
BOYCE, JESSIE L	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 1/2
SORRELL, TROY W	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 2/3
MILLS, LARRY J.	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 2/3
WILLIAMS, JARED LEE	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 3/4
SMITH, BRADLEY R	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 3/4
KING, FREDERICK	Paramedic	SG 11 Step 4
SHATSWELL, JEREMY A.	Paramedic	SG 12 Step 3/4
SNOW, TRAVIS L	Paramedic (Floatpool)	HG 10 Step 4/5
IVEY, RANDALL L	Paramedic (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
RANDALL, SCOTT	Paramedic (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
RUSK, ROBERT R.	Paramedic (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
GRAMMER, JULIA	Paramedic (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 1/2
DOTSON, CHERYL	Patient Account IV Rep	SG 11 Step 1/2
RAINBOLT, SUSAN R	Patient Account Rep III	SG 9 Step 3/4
MCKAY, JOHNETTE	Patient Account Rep III	SG 9 Step 3/4
YEARBY, ROBYN R.	Patient Advocacy Coordinator	SG 13 Step 2
COX, EVA R.	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 8 Step 2/3
MOSES, SONYA L.	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 8 Step 2/3
COACHMAN, REBECCA	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 8 Step 3/4
YARGEE, SHELLY R.	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
HENEHA, KRISTI C.	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
BEAR, KYNDRA L.	Patient Benefit Coordinator	SG 9 Step 2/3
LOWE, MARSHA A.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 7 Step 2/3
LOWE, BRANDI N.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1
TULSA, JAMIE S	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1
LEGRAND, KELLY J	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1
FLORES, MELIDA C	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1
MCNAC, CAROLYN	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
ALSTON, JASON W.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
DAWSON, ROBERT A	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
GOREE, ANDREA R.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
FACTOR, MARIAH K	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
NIXON, TAMMY M.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
MARSHALL, JARON K.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
FIELDS, CHEYANNA M	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
SNYDER, CRYSTAL L	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
BERRYHILL, LACHELLE Y.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
DENNISON, ELIZABETH	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
MITCHELL, SHANNON M	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
SCOTT, KRISTI NICOLE	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
HICKS, RACHEL D	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
BROWN, JORDAN	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
WHITMER, KATIE L.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
BARNETT, MITCHA L.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
LITTLEHEAD, KYLE J.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
CAMPBELL, COREY D	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
HERNDON, KELLY J.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
YAHOLA, ZIPPORAH	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
OESTREICH, SAMANTHA L.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
BUCKTROT, ALICIA A.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
MORTENSEN, TERESA MARIE	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
AQUINO, MARCY	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
THRAILKILL, SEJARYEE L.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 2/3
MOSQUITO, ALEXANDRIA R	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 3
SMITH, TAREN M.	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4

TERRIQUEZ, SHERI	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 9 Step 3/4
ALEXANDER, AUDREY	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 10 Step 1/2
FOX, PATRICIA	Patient Registration Clerk	SG 10 Step 2/3
MCHENRY, ALEXIS P	Patient Registration Clerk-Float pool	HG 8 Step 2/3
ARMSTRONG, AMIE J.	Patient Registration Clerk-Float pool	HG 8 Step 2/3
JIMBOY, TALIA N.	Patient Registration Clerk-Float pool	HG 8 Step 2/3
JONES, TINA	Patient Registration Clerk-Float pool	HG 8 Step 2/3
CAMPBELL, JAMES P.	Patient Registration Coordinator	SG 8 Step 4/5
MARSHALL, ROSALEE	Patient Registration Supv.	SG 9 Step 2/3
HUSKEY, BETTE	Patient Registration Supv.	SG 9 Step 4/5
BRILL, DEBRA	Patient Registration Supv.	SG 10 Step 2/3
BURGESS, GINA	Payroll Coordinator	SG 12 Step 3/4
BOSS, DEBRA K	PBX Operator	SG 7 Step 2
DONATHAN, MARGIE A	PBX Operator	SG 7 Step 2/3
MCBRIDE, JANIE	PBX Operator	SG 7 Step 2/3
EDWARDS, JENNIFER	PBX Operator	SG 8 Step 2/3
PINKSTON, MYRNA	PBX Operator - part time	HG 7 Step 1/2
DENTON, JENNIFER R.	Pediatric Nurse Practioner	MG 12 Step 1/2
KNIGHT, RANDY G.	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
BURNS, AMANDA K.	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
BEAN, JASON C.	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
BRASEL, LESLIE	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
BARRETT, HALEY N	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 2/3
BOYLE, RALPH J.	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 2/3
SMITH, CLINT	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
WOOD, ELLEN E	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
GARRETT, AMY	Pharmacist	MG 12 Step 3/4
LANSFORD, DENNY W	Pharmacist Part time	MG 14 Step 3/4
HOLUBY, GEORGE W.	Pharmacist Part time	MG 14 Step 3/4
SEIGER, ALLEN	Pharmacist-Resource	MG 13 Step 1/2
FARROW, CHRISTY D	Pharmacy Billing Analyst	SG 15 Step 1/2
ALLEN, DUSTY	Pharmacy Billing Manager	MG 13 Step 1/2
MARSHALL, CHERYL L	Pharmacy Billing Tech	SG 8 Step 3/4
PEARSON, MISTY R	Pharmacy Clerk	SG 7 Step 2
TAYLOR, MELINDA A.	Pharmacy Clerk (Float)	HG 8 Step 4/5
PIEARCY, CINDY L	Pharmacy Tech	SG 8 Step 2/3
MARSHALL, SOPHRONA L	Pharmacy Tech	SG 8 Step 2/3
NELSON, KELLIE	Pharmacy Tech	SG 8 Step 4/5
BARNETT, KATIE L	Pharmacy Tech	SG 8 Step 4/5
GRIMES, GINA M	Pharmacy Tech	SG 9 Step 1/2
SPENCER, MARI	Pharmacy Tech Temporary	HG 8 Step 3/4
BAIRD, SUEANN L.	Pharmacy Tech/Billing Clerk	SG 8 Step 3/4
BURNS, MARIE	Pharmacy Tech/Billing Clerk	SG 8 Step 4/5
SLAPE, CARLA	Pharmacy Tech/Billing Clerk	SG 10 Step 1/2
GRAHAM, JESSICA S.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 7 Step 2/3
BARNETT, LATOSHA	Pharmacy Technician	SG 7 Step 4/5
RAY, LEE ANN	Pharmacy Technician	SG 7 Step 4/5
MASLONKA, SHELLEY E.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 1/2
MATHESON, DENISE A.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
DAVIS, LINDA S.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
SALBINO, JOHNNIE L.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
SEGURA, AMY D.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
PEARSON, PATRICIA A.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 2/3
LANE, KAREN A.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 3/4
HUFF, SHERRY C.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 3/4
CHOATE, TAMMY	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 4/5
STRINGFELLOW, SUNNI	Pharmacy Technician	SG 8 Step 4/5
STEPHENS, AMY E.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 9 Step 1/2
EDSON, KELLY M.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 9 Step 1/2
DAN, CYNTHIA M.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 9 Step 3/4
THOMAS, ANGELA G.	Pharmacy Technician	SG 10 Step 1/2
WALKER, APRIL	Pharmacy Technician Floatpool	HG 7 Step 1/2
ANDERSON, ANDREW J	Phlebotomist	SG 8 Step 4/5
SIMMERS, JESCINIA	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 1/2
JONES, ANGELA D.	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 1/2
FIELDS, LISA M.	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 1/2
KING, RANEE G	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 1/2
SCOTT, GWENDOLYN D.	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 2/3
GAXIOLA, MARGARET	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 3
WALKER, JOHNNA	Phlebotomist	SG 9 Step 3/4
FISHER, CHARLA	Phlebotomist	SG 11 Step 3/4
CHERRY, LEANN O	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 8 Step 2/3
MCCOY, KENDRA D	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 8 Step 2/3
CAMPBELL, JAYCEE A.	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 9 Step 1/2
WILLIAMS, FELECIA A.	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 9 Step 2/3
WILHOIT, PATRICIA D	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 9 Step 3/4
FRANKLIN, MARILYN	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 10 Step 4/5
MOGRIDGE, HAYLEE	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 10 Step 4/5
THOMPSON, TODD L	Phlebotomist (Float)	HG 10 Step 4/5
STEWART, ESTHER L.	Physcial Therapy Assistant	SG 11 Step 3/4
CHEBAHTAH, KELLY J.	Physcial Therapy Assistant	SG 12 Step 2/3
BROWN, KYLE T	Physical Therapist	SG 16 Step 3/4
GIROD, LAURA M	Physical Therapist	SG 16 Step 3/4
HILDEBRAND, MARK D	Physical Therapist	SG 16 Step 3/4
GATZMAN, SIDNEY J	Physical Therapist	SG 17 Step 1/2
MATTHEWS, BRITTANY NICOLE	Physical Therapist Asst I	SG 12 Step 2/3
BOYD, BRITNY	Physical Therapist Asst II	SG 12 Step 2/3
MAJTYKA, LEANN	Physical Therapy Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
FERRY, MELONIE D	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
JONES, CARLA J	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
BRADY, MEAGAN	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
JOHNSON, MIRANDA L.	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
ZACKERY, KATHRYN S	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
JENNINGS, GEORGE M.	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
EARLS, EVA K.	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
WILSON, MEGAN B	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
HARJO, JIM	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
BURDEN-GREER, KATIE	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
WEST, MICHAEL	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
KIDWELL, MONICA S.	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
MILLER, CARL	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
WANG, SOLEDAD	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
ALGEO, THOMAS F.	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
STARKEY, ERICA S	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
WILEY, MATTHEW H	Physician	MG 14 Step 10+
DUNN III, WESLEY	Physician	MG 11 Step 2/3
FIPPS, BRIAN K.	Physician Assistant	MG 12 Step 4/5
DAWSON, HEIDI E.	Physician Assistant	MG 12 Step 4/5
HARJO, JEANETTE	Physician Assistant	MG 13 Step 2/3
BOHNSTEDT, SUSAN N.	Physician Assistant	MG 13 Step 3/4
ECKHARDT, PETER	Physician Assistant II	MG 11 Step 2/3
JANSEN, NICK	Physician Assistant/Nurse Prac	MG 11 Step 4/5
REMER, CATHERINE	Physician Assistant/Nurse Prac	MG 12 Step 4/5
BOHANNON, QUINTON T.	Physician Assistant/Nurse Prac	MG 13 Step 4/5
WAINWRIGHT, TINA	Physician Assistant/Nurse Prac	MG 14 Step 1/2
VINCENT, TERENCE J	Podiatrist	MG 14 Step 4/5
JACKSON, FLORA M.	Popps Processing Clerk	SG 10 Step 3/4
ALEXANDER, PATRICIA J.	Prevention Counselor	SG 9 Step 4/5
STONE, TYLER R	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 2
WHITLOW, NICHOLAS A.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 2
KRUEGER, NEDRA R.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 2/3
SAGO, JILL S.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 2/3
MEFFORD, BEVERLY J.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 3
CO CKE, JOHN F.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 3
QUALLS, TINA M.	Prevention Specialist	SG 11 Step 3/4
THOMPSON, HOLLIE M	Prevention Specialist/CSE Mgr.	SG 12 Step 3
HOGUE-TROTTER, BRENDA L.	Primary Care Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
HARGIS, TONYA	Procurement Supervisor	MG 7 Step 3/4
MURPHY, ANGELIA M.	Procurement Technician	SG 9 Step 1/2
SMITH, NATASHA JILL	Procurement Technician	SG 9 Step 1/2
BRASUELL, JOHNNIE M.	Program Development Coord.	MG 14 Step 10+
CARMAN, MIRANDA K	Project Coord/BHC/HIVTCE	SG 13 Step 4
FISHER, EDWINA V.	Project Coord/BHC/HIVTCE	SG 14 Step 4/5
CROW, LESLIE L.	Project Coord/Provider	SG 14 Step 2
COON, MICHAEL D	Property & Supply Tech	SG 9 Step 4/5
THOMAS, LOY D.	PS/Materials Mgmt Manager	SG 13 Step 3/4
MCCOY, JAMIE L.	Psychiatric Social Worker	SG 13 Step 4
CENTER, KIMALA A	Public Health Nurse	SG 13 Step 1
PIGEON, MICHELE L.	Public Health Nurse	SG 13 Step 2/3
SCHMIDLKOFER, JAMES A.	Public Health Nurse	SG 13 Step 3/4
WILLIAMS, LARESA D.	Public Health Nurse	SG 13 Step 4/5
HOWARD, CHERIE	Quality Improvement Specialist	SG 14 Step 2/3
HILL, LORI A.	Radiology CT Tech	SG 14 Step 3/4
HAMMER, SUNNY	Radiology Supervisor	MG 8 Step 3/4
SANDERS, ANNIE	Radiology Tech	SG 11 Step 1/2
RAY, NICHOLAS	Radiology Tech	SG 11 Step 1/2
ELIZONDO, KELLY M	Radiology Tech	SG 11 Step 4/5
SPONEM, JEANNETTE D.	Radiology Tech	SG 12 Step 3
HERNDON, BOBBIE	Radiology Tech	SG 12 Step 3
BEAR, TONYA	Radiology Tech	SG 12 Step 3/4
BALENTI, JUDY C.	Radiology Tech	SG 13 Step 2/3
HOLLOWAY, SPARKEL A.	Radiology Tech	SG 13 Step 3/4
RICHARDSON, KIMBERLY	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 10 Step 3/4
BRIGANCE, TANNER B	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 2/3
CHESSER, APRIL M	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 2/3
TONEY, KAYDI R	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 2/3
HYSLOPE, STORMI L.	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 3/4
ROSE, JESSICA	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 3/4
BLITCH, TISHENA R	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 4/5
DAVIS, TRACI L	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 1/2
TARKINGTON, JAMIE L	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 1/2
HUGGINS, APRIL L	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 3/4
BECK, BARBARA F	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 3/4
GREGORY, MYRA	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
ALLEN, JAYME K.	Radiology Tech (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
KAY, ROBYN L.	Radiology Tech 1	SG 12 Step 4/5
JOHNSON, MICHAEL C.	Radiology Tech I/CT Tech	SG 13 Step 2/3
GIRTY, MISTY M.	Radiology Tech III	SG 13 Step 1/2
JONES, JULIA J.	Radiology Tech/CT	SG 13 Step 3/4
ROBERTSON, SARAH	Radiology Tech/Float Pool	HG 9 Step 4/5
HIGHTREE, MISTY D	Radiology Tech-Mammo	SG 14 Step 1/2
REAVIS, DONNA	Radiology Technician III-Mammo	SG 14 Step 2/3
BILLY, DOROTHEA K.	Receptionist	SG 7 Step 2/3
HARRISON, SALLY M.	Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
COON, KATIE B.	Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
LAYMAN, SHERRY	Receptionist	SG 8 Step 3/4
COLBERT, QUEENIE S.	Receptionist	SG 8 Step 4/5
CHALAKEE, SHELLY D.	Receptionist	SG 8 Step 4/5
GREEN, ANGELA D.	Receptionist	SG 9 Step 2/3
COLE, KATHY	Receptionist Clerk I	SG 6 Step 3/4
BUCKLEY, TIFFANY	Receptionist Family	SG 8 Step 2/3
TAYLOR, SARAH A.	Receptionist Pediatrics	SG 8 Step 2/3
HEAVENER, SHAREE	Receptionist Radiology	SG 8 Step 2/3
BATTIEST, VANESSA J.	Receptionist/Dental	SG 8 Step 2/3
HICKS, TINA M.	Receptionist/Dental	SG 9 Step 1/2
BARNETT, ARNETTA	Receptionist-Primary Care-KOWE	SG 8 Step 2/3
RAY, BEVERLY	Records Sr Clerk	SG 7 Step 4/5
HOUSER, HEATHER D	Recreation Therapist	SG 10 Step 2/3

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WILLIAMS, ALICIA K.	Registered Ultrasound Tech	SG 15 Step 4/5
CHISUM, ETHEL	Registration Clerk	SG 7 Step 4/5
KIGER, KY	Rehab Services Director	SG 17 Step 5/6
DEERE, TERI L	Rehabilitation Technician	SG 10 Step 1/2
HAWKINS, SHARON	Relief AM/PM Cook	SG 6 Step 4/5
FOREMAN, LANA	Res Phlebotomist/ekg Tech	HG 7 Step 1/2
CALDWELL, DENIECE	Respiratory Therapist	SG 8 Step 3/4
BEEN, SHIRLEY	Respiratory Therapist	SG 10 Step 3/4
WILSON, QUINN	Respiratory Therapist (Floatpool)	HG 11 Step 2/3
SANDERS, DEBBIE A.	Respiratory Therapist (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 1/2
SANCHEZ, VALDEMAR	Respiratory Therapist (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 1/2
PATTERSON, MIKE W	Respiratory Therapist (Floatpool)	HG 13 Step 1/2
ASBERRY, MYRTLE	RN	SG 13 Step 2/3
LEACH, DANIELLE	RN	SG 13 Step 3/4
HOLUBY, KALANA C.	RN	SG 13 Step 4/5
MILES, AQUEISHA	RN	SG 13 Step 4/5
WATKINS, PENNY K	RN	SG 13 Step 4/5
RILEY, BRITTANIE M	RN	SG 13 Step 4/5
PIGEON, JEANNIE	RN	SG 13 Step 4/5
HAYWORTH, HOLLI B	RN	SG 14 Step 1
STIDMAN, JESSICA	RN	SG 14 Step 1/2
SCOTT, AMANDA	RN	SG 14 Step 1/2
STARKEY, CARLIE S	RN	SG 14 Step 2/3
DEAN, JEFFREY	RN	SG 14 Step 2/3
FRAZIER, BRENDA	RN	SG 14 Step 2/3
GRIDER, AMBER C	RN	SG 14 Step 3
HAWTHORNE, MICAH	RN	SG 14 Step 3
LEE, JAQUETTA L.	RN	SG 14 Step 3/4
ANDERSON, JENIFER	RN	SG 14 Step 4/5
GUINN, IDA	RN	SG 14 Step 4/5
TABOR, TERESA	RN	SG 15 Step 1/2
PODEST, REBECCA A.	RN	SG 15 Step 1/2
MAGNESS, MARY	RN	SG 15 Step 1/2
MCGOWEN, ALICE	RN	SG 15 Step 2/3
BRIDGEFORD, ALMA	RN	SG 15 Step 2/3
MCELYEA, TERI E.	RN	SG 15 Step 2/3
BRANNON-STOTTS, KIRSTI N.	RN - PACU	SG 14 Step 1/2
LOFTIS, DEBBIE	RN - PACU	SG 16 Step 1/2
HILL, SUSAN	RN - Two West	SG 14 Step 1/2
CARTER, DARLA	RN - Two West	SG 14 Step 4/5
MOTTE, JUDITH	RN - Two West	SG 15 Step 4/5
DUNZY, TSIANINA A.	RN (Floatpool)	HG 14 Step 4/5
KENDRICK, ALLEN W	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
HENRY, JESSICA	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
DEAN, DEBRA	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
WILLIAMS, CANDACE M	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
DREW, SHERRY	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
MAHAN, KIMBERLY	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 1/2
BEAN, MEGGIN E.	RN (Floatpool)	HG 15 Step 2/3
SMITH, JACQUELINE M.	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
FULLER, SHERRY L.	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
PERKINS, TERRY L	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
RAY, BRANDI	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
YARBROUGH, DEIDRE A	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
HAAG, MELISSA SUE	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
HAMILTON, AMANDA J	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
WEBSTER, PATRICIA K	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
AUTRY, TODD L	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
SHIPLEY, PAMELA ANNE	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
THOMPSON, DIANE N	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
RAY, MARY R	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
RIDDLE, KIMBERLY S	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
MILLER, JESSICA M	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
JOHNS, MICHELLE	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
QUALLS-MARTIN, KRYSTAL	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
LONG, ANGELA	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
STEGEMAN, RITA	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 1/2
ANGEL, SHERYL	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 2/3
GILBERT, EVELYN	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 2/3
FORD, TALICIA	RN (Floatpool)	HG 16 Step 2/3
RAMIREZ, TARSHA	RN Emergency Department	SG 14 Step 1/2
BERGESEN, KATHERINE	RN Emergency Department	SG 14 Step 2/3
FORD, MICHAEL B.	RN Emergency Department	SG 14 Step 3
COLOMBIN, JENNIFER L	RN Emergency Department	SG 14 Step 3/4
BRINKLEY, MONICA	RN Emergency Department	SG 15 Step 1
BARNETT, CARLA L	RN Emergency Department	SG 15 Step 3
MARSHALL, ERIN M.	RN Emergency Department	SG 15 Step 3/4
ADAM, PAULA	RN Emergency Department	SG 15 Step 4/5
MIDDLETON, GLENDA	RN Emergency Dept/Fast Track	SG 14 Step 1/2
STARR, PATTY J.	RN ER Room	SG 14 Step 1/2
VANCE, SHANNON M.	RN ER Room	SG 14 Step 1/2
MILLS, NETIASHA T	RN ER Room	SG 14 Step 2/3
CASSELMAN, REBECCA	RN ER Room	SG 15 Step 2/3
MYERS, TIFFANY	RN ER/OR	SG 14 Step 1/2
WITHAM, KIMBERLY D.	RN House Supervisor	SG 14 Step 3/4
HENRY, TANYA S.	RN House Supervisor	SG 14 Step 4/5
WILLIAMS, JENNIFER T.	RN House Supervisor	SG 15 Step 1/2
MABREY, KRYSTEN	RN House Supervisor	SG 15 Step 4/5
DISANTO UNDERWOOD, GIA M	RN LTACH	SG 14 Step 1/2
SMART, LORI A.	RN MED/SURG	SG 13 Step 4/5
WEST, MONSITA T.	RN MED/SURG	SG 14 Step 1/2
BAGBY, SARAH M.	RN MED/SURG	SG 14 Step 4/5
LOWRY, VICTORIA L	RN PEDS	SG 14 Step 1
MCKEE, RENEE A.	RN Specialty Clinic	SG 15 Step 1/2

DUCKWORTH, TRACY	RN Supervisor	SG 14 Step 1/2
DEARMAN, LEAH K.	RN Supervisor	SG 15 Step 1
JENKINS, SANDY L.	RN Supervisor	SG 15 Step 1/2
MORROW, TERRI	RN Triage	SG 14 Step 1
BRAY, ROBERT C	RN Triage	SG 14 Step 2
JUKICH, DAVID	RN Triage	SG 14 Step 3/4
NEEL, TSIANINA	RN/Part time	HG 16 Step 2/3
CHILES, VICKIE	RN-Home Health	SG 14 Step 1/2
WHITE, ARIEL A.	RN-Home Health	SG 14 Step 2/3
DAVIS, SHARON J	RN-Hope Unit	SG 14 Step 2
HENRY-THOMAS, LEDONIA	RN-Hope Unit	SG 14 Step 3/4
BROWN, PEGGY	RN-Hope Unit	SG 14 Step 3/4
TREAGESSER, BRANDY R.	RN-Wound Care	SG 13 Step 1/2
WILEY, THOMAS J	Safety Intern	HG 10 Step 2/3
WILLIS, KAMI B.	Safety Officer	SG 14 Step 2/3
PIZZOLATO, LENA M.	SANE Program Mgr.	SG 15 Step 2/3
SCRAPER, CHARLOTTE	Scheduler	SG 8 Step 1/2
LOWE, LATOYA F	Scheduling Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
STALLIN, RAVEN B	Scheduling Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
SMITH, TALIA D.	Scheduling Clerk	SG 8 Step 1/2
BEAR, DAVID L.	Scheduling Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
HICKS, CARRIE	Secretary/Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
FLINN, MELODIE J.	Secretary/Receptionist	SG 8 Step 2/3
SANDERS JR, KEITH T	Security Guard	SG 7 Step 2/3
JACKSON, ANTONIO	Security Guard	SG 7 Step 2/3
HOLUBY, MICHAEL L.	Security Guard	SG 7 Step 2/3
LITTLE, DALTON M.	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 6 Step 4
HILL, HOMER G.	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
WEST, CHARLES	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
SOWEKA, RICHARD L	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
MOFFETT, RODNEY D	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
BEEN, RANDY L	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
FIXICO JR., RICHARD D	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
LANDERS, DANTE J	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 1/2
REMIS JR., SAM JOSEPH	Security Guard Float Pool	HG 9 Step 2/3
FRY, JOHNSON	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 1/2
CHECOTAH, DANIEL R	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2
SULPHUR, JEMONA M	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2
POWELL, CHRISTOPHER L.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
COLE, SAMMY R.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
CROW, ZACHARIAH B.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
PRIDGEN, TIMOTHY G.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
COON, WENDELL	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
FIXICO, ROBERT L	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 7 Step 2/3
REMIS, TOMMY J.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 8 Step 1/2
MAYES, JEROMY	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 8 Step 3/4
HAUMPY, STEPHEN B.	Security Guard-Unarmed	SG 8 Step 3/4
JONES, KATHRYN	Senior Cook	SG 9 Step 2/3
DAVIS, SARA	Senior Director Of Nursing	MG 10 Step 2/3
BURDINE, YNONA	SNF Nurse Supv	SG 14 Step 4/5
HILL, NATHANIEL	Social Worker	SG 13 Step 4/5
WEDEL, KAYLA S	Speech Language Pathologist	SG 14 Step 3/4
MCCRARY, ERIN	Speech Language Pathologist	SG 14 Step 4/5
CONNER, MEGAN M	Sr Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 1/2
PETERS, SHARON	Sr Administrative Assistant	SG 9 Step 3/4
WELCH, REBECCA	Sr Food Services Worker	SG 7 Step 2/3
BROWN, LYDIA	Sr. Clinical Applications Specialist	SG 12 Step 3/4
BRITT, CARL	Sr. Computer Technician	SG 13 Step 1/2
SUMMERS, DONNA	Sr. Systems Analyst	MG 8 Step 2/3
STEWART, TOMMY	Sr. Systems Analyst-LAN/WAN	SG 14 Step 4/5
MCGERTT, BRYAN K.	Sr. Telecommunications Tech	SG 13 Step 1/2
MATTINGLY, PAMELA	Staff Accountant	SG 12 Step 4/5
OBRIEN, MICHAEL T	Staff Dentist	MG 14 Step 1/2
STALLINGS, BRETT	Staff Dentist	MG 14 Step 2/3
CASHMAN, SHANE	Staff Dentist	MG 14 Step 4/5
PATEL, NEHAL M.	Staff Dentist	MG 14 Step 9/10
CHRISTOPHER, LESLIE C.	Staff Dentist	MG 14 Step 9/10
MONTGOMERY, DEAN P.	Staff Psychologist	MG 11 Step 1/2
HODSON, BRUCE R.	Staff Psychologist	MG 11 Step 1/2
BROWN, KIMBERLY	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 2/3
WHITNEY COWLEY, MELODY	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 2/3
LEWIS, SHEENA	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 2/3
MASSEY, LISA MAUREEN	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 2/3
GASSEN, AMBER D.	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 4/5
EDMONDS, KAYLEE D	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 4/5
SHELDON, JESSICA L.	Staff Registered Nurse	SG 13 Step 4/5
ROMINE, REGINA M.	Staffing Coordinator	SG 13 Step 4/5
VINSON, KRYSTON	Surgery Technician	SG 11 Step 2/3
ARMSTRONG, BARBARA	Surgery Technician/Part Time	HG 11 Step 4/5
PIZA, KESHA L	Surgical Tech - Floatpool	HG 8 Step 2/3
KINSLOW, SHANNA	Surgical Tech I	SG 9 Step 2/3
JONES, BROOKE	Surgical Tech I	SG 9 Step 3/4
LEWIS, KANEETRA M.	Team Leader - Outpatient A/R	SG 10 Step 2/3
MOORE, PHILLIP C	Telecommunication Tech	SG 10 Step 3
MCGERTT, CODY L	Telecommunication Tech	SG 11 Step 1/2
KUPP, LORI	Therapeutic Recreation Sr Spec	SG 11 Step 3/4
RANDALL, TRACY J.	Third Party Billing Supervisor	SG 13 Step 4/5
LITTLEBEAR, DANIEL	Tobacco Prevention Coordinator	SG 10 Step 2/3
FEATHERS, CARLA J.	Tobacco Program Manager	SG 13 Step 3/4
DAVIS, ARLENE F	Tobacco Program Specialist	SG 11 Step 2/3
KREINBIHL, MICHELLE	Transcriptionist	SG 8 Step 1/2
MELSON, SHEILA A.	Transcriptionist	SG 9 Step 1/2
JOHNSON, JOSEPH I.	Transcriptionist	SG 9 Step 3
HURN, LETICIA	Transcriptionist/Part Time	HG 9 Step 3/4

PRICE, DIANNA D.	Travel Coordinator	SG 11 Step 1/2
SAVAGE, LAURA L.	Treatment Coordinator	SG 14 Step 4/5
JIMBOY, TIARRA M.	Tribal Program Coordinator	SG 10 Step 1/2
BUTLER, HOLLY	Tribal Program Tech-chs	SG 8 Step 2/3
BAKER, MALINDA A	Tribal Program Tech-chs	SG 8 Step 2/3
JONES, ANDREA R.	Ultra Sound Tech	SG 12 Step 2/3
EMIGH, KIMBERLY M.	Ultra Sound Tech	SG 14 Step 3/4
HURT, CALLI R.	Ultrasound Tech Floatpool	HG 13 Step 4/5
ELLISON, KRISTIN R	Ultrasound Tech Floatpool	HG 13 Step 4/5
WILSON, KEVIN J	Ultrasound Tech Floatpool	HG 14 Step 3/4
SANDS, LISA J.	Unit Clerk	SG 7 Step 3/4
GILES, SUSAN R.	Unit Coordinator	SG 9 Step 1/2
POWELL, LESLIE M.	Vr Counselor	SG 11 Step 1/2
WILLIAMS, RUSH Q.	Vr Counselor	SG 11 Step 1/2
SELVIDGE, ANITA J.	Vr Counselor	SG 12 Step 1/2
DE LA CRUZ, EMMA L.	VR Program Manager	MG 6 Step 4/5
BAUGHMAN, JEAN	Ward Clerk/CNA	SG 6 Step 3/4
SCOTT, MARIANNE	Ward Clerk/CNA	SG 7 Step 3/4
KNOETTGEN, COURTNEY	X-Ray Tech	SG 11 Step 4/5
WARREN, SHELLY J.	X-Ray Tech	SG 14 Step 4/5
RECORD, ALFRED	X-ray Tech Float Pool	HG 12 Step 4/5
JACKSON, DOYLE J.	X-ray Tech/Site Mgr.	SG 14 Step 2/3
RUSSELL, NATALIE A.	Young Child Wellness Coordinator	SG 10 Step 4/5
DOOLEY, DAYEN A.	Young Child Wellness Coordinator	SG 11 Step 1
GOLDEN, SANDRA J.	Young Child Wellness Coordinator	SG 11 Step 2/3
RIDGLEY, ERICA K.	Young Child Wellness Expert	SG 15 Step 2
ALLEN, ASHLEIGH	Young Child Wellness Partner	SG 14 Step 1

MCN HR CORRECTION

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Human Resources Manager Dean Hughes contacted Mvskoke Media Aug. 9 after the salary information had been posted to the MM website Aug. 8 with a correction for Patricia Kilian stating that her salary as a staff accountant with the MCN Treasury Department should be SG 13.

Third quarter financials coming Sept. 15

The third quarter Muscogee (Creek) Nation financials for fiscal year 2016 will be published in the next 'Muscogee Nation News' edition to comply with MCN Code Annotated Title 37, Chapter 2 titled 'Budget and Finance' Subchapter 7, Section 2-709.

MCNCA Title 37, Chapter 3, Section 3-301 titled 'Employees,' Subchapter 3 titled, 'Disclosure of Names, Grades and Compensation'

Within 10 days of Feb. 25, 1989 and on July 31 each year thereafter the principal chief shall submit to the National Council the following information: A. A list of all tribal positions and the names, grades and step levels of persons in those positions. Such list shall be published in the Muscogee Nation News.

MCN Salary schedules posted on the tribal website marked as updated Aug. 7, 2014

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FULL TIME HOURLY SCHEDULE
Effective 10/01/2010

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
HG 6			10.1500 21,112.00	10.4500 21,736.00	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80
HG 7	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25, 168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29, 161.60
HG 8	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40
HG 9	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80
HG 10	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20
HG 11	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44, 116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80
HG 12	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00
HG 13	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40
HG 14	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60
HG 15	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75, 171.20
HG 16	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60
HG 17	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60	41.8900 87, 131.20	43.1500 89,752.00	44.4400 92,435.20	45.7700 95,201.60

APPROVED: ____________ DATE: 6-1-10

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
PART TIME SCHEDULE
Effective 10/01/2010

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
HG 6					10.1500 21,112.00	10.4500 21,736.00	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00
HG 7	10.1500 21,112.00	10.4500 21,736.00	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25, 168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80
HG B	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60
HG 9	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20
HG 10	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20
HG 11	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39, 187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80
HG 12	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44, 116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20
HG 13	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20
HG 14	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60
HG 15	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60
HG 16	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20
HG 17	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75, 171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82, 139.20	40.6700 84,593.60	41.8900 87, 131.20	43.1500 89,752.00

APPROVED: ____________ DATE: 6-11-10

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FULL TIME SCHEDULE
Effective 10/01/2010

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step s	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
SG G			10.1500 21,112.00	10.4500 21,736.00	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80
SG 7	10.7600 22,380.80	11.0800 23,046.40	11.4100 23,732.80	11.7500 24,440.00	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60
SG 8	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40
SG 9	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80
SG 10	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20
SG 11	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80
SG 12	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51, 188.80	25.3500 52,728.00
SG 13	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40
SG 14	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60
SG 15	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20
SG 16	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60
SG 17	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60	41.8900 87,131.20	43.1500 89,752.00	44.4400 92,435.20	45.7700 95,201.60

APPROVED: ____________ DATE: 6--IL-/?>

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE
Effective 10/01/2010

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
MG 1	12.1000 25,168.00	12.4600 25,916.80	12.8300 26,686.40	13.2100 27,476.80	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40
MG 2	13.6100 28,308.80	14.0200 29,161.60	14.4400 30,035.20	14.8700 30,929.60	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80
MG 3	15.3200 31,865.60	15.7800 32,822.40	16.2500 33,800.00	16.7400 34,819.20	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20
MG 4	17.2400 35,859.20	17.7600 36,940.80	18.2900 38,043.20	18.8400 39,187.20	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80
MG 5	19.4100 40,372.80	19.9900 41,579.20	20.5900 42,827.20	21.2100 44,116.80	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00
MG 6	21.8500 45,448.00	22.5100 46,820.80	23.1900 48,235.20	23.8900 49,691.20	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40
MG ?	24.6100 51,188.80	25.3500 52,728.00	26.1100 54,308.80	26.8900 55,931.20	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61,131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60
MG 8	27.7000 57,616.00	28.5300 59,342.40	29.3900 61, 131.20	30.2700 62,961.60	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75, 171.20
MG 9	31.1800 64,854.40	32.1200 66,809.60	33.0800 68,806.40	34.0700 70,865.60	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60
MG 10	35.0900 72,987.20	36.1400 75,171.20	37.2200 77,417.60	38.3400 79,747.20	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60	41.8900 87,131.20	43.1500 89,752.00	44.4400 92,435.20	45.7700 95,201.60
MG 11	39.4900 82,139.20	40.6700 84,593.60	41.8900 87,131.20	43.1500 89,752.00	44.4400 92,435.20	45.7700 95,201.60	47.1400 98,051.20	48.5500 100,984.00	50.0100 104,020.80	51.5100 107, 140.80
MG 12	44.4400 92,435.20	45.7700 95,201.60	47.1400 98,051.20	48.5500 100,984.00	50.0100 104,020.80	51.5100 107,140.80	53.0600 110,364.80	54.6500 113,672.00	56.2900 117,083.20	57.9800 120,598.40
MG 13	50.0100 104,020.80	51.5100 107,140.80	53.0600 110,364.80	54.6500 113,672.00	56.2900 117,083.20	57.9800 120,598.40	59.7200 124,217.60	61.5100 127,940.80	63.3600 131,788.80	65.2600 135,740.80
MG 14	56.2900 117,083.20	57.9800 120,598.40	59.7200 124,217.60	61.5100 127,940.80	63.3600 131,788.80	65.2600 135,740.80	67.2200 139,817.60	69.2400 144,019.20	71.3200 148,345.60	73.4600 152,796.80

APPROVED: ____________ DATE: L:r;; .-:.J... /'40

Winner of the OK SPJ, Carter Bradley First Amendment & the NAJA, Elias Boudinot Free Press Awards

Sept. 15, 2016 "Otowoskuce" Little Chestnut

Vol. 46, Issue 19

Citizen featured in national exhibit — Page 2

MCN quarterly financial statements per code — Pages 7-8



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

Several positions confirmed by Council during session

Lighthorse chief, housing secretary, election board member, controller confirmed

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An emergency session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held Aug. 27 followed by a regular session at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

• **TR 16-145 was addressed in emergency session, approving the settlement of the MCN's claims against the United States in Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Jewell, ET AL., (D.C.C. Filed Dec. 20, 2006)(No. 06-CV-2161-TFH), and attesting to accuracy of trust account balances as stated in periodic statements of performance. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.**

On Dec. 20, 2006, MCN filed trust fund and non-monetary trust asset or resource mismanagement claims against the U.S. in federal court.

With counsel from the

Council ~ 3



Jessica McBride/MNN
A grand opening ceremony was held Aug. 25 for the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant, which is one of four openings to be held over the next year for additions to the River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa, Okla.

Margaritaville Tulsa declares 'it's 5 o'clock somewhere'

MCN holds grand opening for casino, restaurant

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

TULSA, Okla. — The highly anticipated Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant declared 'it's 5 o'clock somewhere' and opened its doors to patrons Aug. 25.

The addition to River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa features another 50,000 square feet of gaming floor adorned and carpeted with parrots and palm trees, with 850 gaming machines and 27 table games.

A 1,206-car parking garage addition connects to the casino and hotel so players do not have to bear the outside elements.

Parrotheads can sit in a boat and dine on a cheeseburger in paradise, or sip a margarita and listen to live music at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Restaurant and Bar.

This opening is one of several others at RSC throughout the next year, including the hotel tower set to open in December, Ruth's Chris Steak House and Paradise Cove Theater in January 2017 and the Landshark Bar, Resort Pool Deck and River Parks Trail in spring 2017.

According to a press release, the total cost for the project is $365 million and this is up from the $335 million amount announced at the Oct. 15, 2013 groundbreaking ceremony

Tulsa Parrothead Club member Doug McKissick said he has been looking forward to the opening for a long time.

"I think that you'll get Buffett fans that'll come from a ways a way to be here and it's going to be a great boost for

Margaritaville ~ 2

No presidential endorsement from MCN officials, media

Tiger said legislative, executive branches to review candidate platforms

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With the Nov. 8 U.S. presidential election fast approaching, the 'Muscogee Nation News' reached out to Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Lucian Tiger to see if Council would be endorsing any of the candidates.

In a written statement dated Aug. 4, Tiger said Council has never supported a specific candidate or party unless special circumstances warranted an endorsement.

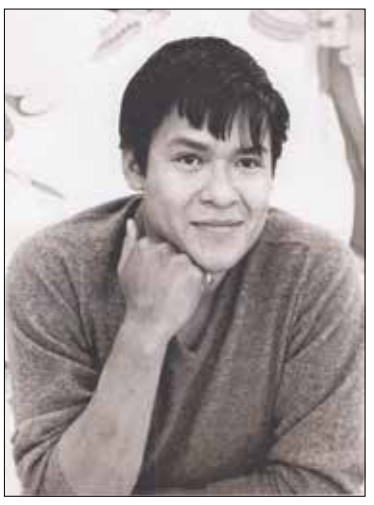
'Certainly, the National Council in coordination with the Office of the Principal Chief reviews the respective platforms and races for not only the presidential race but that of the congressional races as well,' the statement said.

Tiger said the executive and legislative branches would continue to review each candidate's platforms for issues that would affect MCN. View the full statement here: http://tinyurl.com/he42zh3.

According to the Okla-

Presidential ~ 6

Special art exhibit set up for Jerome Tiger family



Submission
The Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, Okla., set up the Jerome Tiger Family exhibit in August to honor the artistic Muscogee (Creek) family.

Five Civilized Tribes Museum honors legacy

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The late Muscogee (Creek) artist Jerome Tiger's work has been on display at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee since it opened in 1966.

FCTM has had a special exhibit for him since he passed in 1967, typically in the month of August.

They went a step further this year by honoring the artistic prowess of his entire family through the Jerome Tiger Family Legacy Exhibit.

"It is one of our most popular exhibits," FCTM Exhibit Coordinator Mary-Beth Timothy said.

His daughter Dana Tiger said Jerome began drawing

Exhibit ~ 2



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen David Turner is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department director.

Citizen hired as MCN Tourism and Recreation director

Turner shares background, goals

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — New Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Director David Turner said he was inspired to work for his tribe by another MCN employee.

"There was a lady in the Higher Education Department who told me when I was filling out paperwork on one of my semesters that I needed to get educated and come back and work for Creek Nation," he said.

Turner graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in agriculture education with an emphasis in leadership.

He taught 'Ag Ed,' as Turner likes to call it, for a number of years and said instruction was only part of his duties.

"I had to plan a lot of functions, a lot of public relations and meeting new people," he said.

Turner said he thought this aspect of his previous position would be a good fit when he saw the TR job posting.

"I wanted to do a job that had those things that I love to do the most, which is planning and organizing events," he said.

Director ~ 5



Jessica McBride/MNN
The Margaritaville Casino addition at River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa, Okla., adds 50,000 square feet of gaming floor, 800 gaming machines and 27 table games.

Margaritaville

Continued from page 1

our economy," he said.

McKissick said he has visited several Margaritaville locations around the world.

River Spirit regular Carol Fitzgerald said she travels three hours to Tulsa about once a month for entertainment and to go to RSC.

Fitzgerald said she is anxious for the hotel to open so that she can stay at the resort.

"They've done a really, really nice job… we're bringing family and friends next week," she said.

During the grand opening ceremony, River Spirit Casino and Resort General Manager Jerry Floyd described the history of the riverfront property known as the Mackey Sand Bar.

"It was on this property many, many years ago that a legal battle ensued with the United States of America on the right to electronic gaming," he said. "And so in a landmark decision that ended up in the 10th Circuit United States Court of Appeals, the Creek Nation prevailed and that was the turning point when you saw Indian bingo halls go away and Indian casinos start all across the country."

During an interview with Mvskoke Media, Jerry Floyd said the word "wow" summed up the project and the transformation from tribal bingo to a name brand casino and resort.

"I find it hard to contain my excitement and enthusiasm, not just because I'm a part of it but for the community. It's unbelievable," he said. "The Nation's made their biggest investment in anything with this property."

Jerry Floyd said he tells all resort employees to be proud of the money generated from the facility because it goes to support health, welfare and education services as well as employment opportunities for over 78,000 shareholders.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd said the project generated tremendous excitement in the area.

"To be able to stand in here today and see what the finished product looks like and to see the response of the public as they come in and just are blown away by the beauty of it, it's very gratifying," James Floyd said.

James Floyd also invited citizens to take a look at their Nation's hard work.

"We're planning on a month long opportunity for them to come in and enjoy it, to see what their money has gone for and to see how people are responding to our investment because it's exceeding the expectations," James Floyd said.

According to MCN Public Relations Acting Director Geebon Gouge, during the month of September, citizens can receive $10 free play and a $15 restaurant voucher by showing their tribal identification card at the player's club located in the Margaritaville Casino.

Exhibit

Continued from page 1

at a young age and kept developing artistically throughout his short life.

"He could create masterpieces," Dana said. "Even in the dark, he could draw something up and it would look great."

Dana said her father could also 'draw' people to him just through his confidence.

"He was magnetic," Dana said. "People just loved him. Everyone wanted to be around him."

Dana believes there are thousands of original pieces created by her father.

"He could not help but draw," she said. "He would draw on people's furniture, on people's shirts. Everybody had these stories about him."

Timothy said the museum has been contacted by many of these people.

"People would send us emails saying that they have some small originals that he did and nobody else has seen," Timothy said.

Dana also commented on the duration or 'stretches' of time he spent working.

"They said he would not sleep for a couple of days," Dana said. "He would paint around the clock."

She said the special exhibit also showcases other family members.

"I feel like my daddy is looking down on us and he is happy," Dana said. "We all could not help but be talented with that blood. I gave my kids art supplies when they were little."

Dana said she is happy FCTM continues to do an annual event to honor her father.

"It makes me feel good that they do this every year," Dana said. "This is where he, we lived (Muskogee). My dad's art is still here and it is spectacular for me."

For more information about the museum call FCTM at: 918-683-1701.



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) artist Starr Hardridge's painting 'Cultural Baggage.'

Citizen featured in national exhibit

Work to be shown at Hardesty Arts Center

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) artist, Starr Hardridge stays connected to his Mvskoke heritage through his passion for the contemporary arts.

Hardridge and his wife, who is an interior decorator, live at the location for their decorative painting and design business with their two children in Redding, Conn.

"We do corporate and residentials but my Native art focuses on Creek history, culture," Hardridge said.

Although he lives abroad, Hardridge said he maintains his Oklahoma roots.

"The Native art world keeps me connected to my Native heritage and my background," he said.

Hardridge said he also uses art to teach his children about the Mvskoke culture.

Early in his life, Hardridge said he knew he had special artistic skills.

"It's something I excelled at and I decided I wanted to be a painter and illustrator," he said.

Hardridge attended the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga.

Hardridge said he visited several ancient mounds sites while in Georgia.

"It really reconnected me to Creek heritage so I started researching everything I could," he said. "I started directing most of my personal art back towards the Native direction."

Hardridge is featured in the Exhibit C, Chickasaw art gallery in Oklahoma City and the Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, N.M.

"I got into the Blue Rain Gallery… which is a very prestigious contemporary gallery," he said.

Hardridge has shown his art in the Santa Fe Indian Art Market, Red Earth Festival, Five Civilized Tribes Juried Exhibition and more.

"I'm kind of taking concept from the Mississippian Period art and kind of bringing them into a more of a contemporary view," Hardridge said.

Hardridge also studied Muscogee (Creek) beadwork dated back to pre-removal, which he then incorporated into his paintings.

"I think after removal, a lot of those art forms were lost," he said.

Hardridge is involved in a group show called 'Return From Exile,' which features Oklahoma Native artists from tribes that originated in the Southeast. It will be on display Oct. 1-Nov. 20. at the Hardesty Art Center in Tulsa.

Hardridge spoke about one of his paintings that can be viewed during the exhibition.

"The piece I was doing for 'Return From Exile' reflected that movement of culture and it was called 'Cultural Baggage,' " Hardridge said.

Hardridge described the piece.

"You can see this line of people going through the woods in the wintertime," Hardridge said. "You can only see the forms of the people but within the forms, you see a lot of pre-Removal designs."

Hardridge chose to use acrylics in a pointillist style.

"When you look at it from far away, it really does look like beadwork on a flat surface," Hardridge said.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the Council began discussions with the U.S. in January 2007 regarding a potential settlement on this.

NARF asked the Council to consider a settlement offer of $8.386 million from the U.S. with the agreement that they would not pursue any more legal action on the case. This legislation would approve the settlement agreement since the Council has decided in favor of it.

According to Council Legislative Research Specialist Alicia McClain, Reps. Mitch Jack and Robert Hufft were excused.

The following legislation was addressed in regular session:

• TR 16-122 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a business associate agreement with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The agreement is to set up an exchange of medical records in compliance with federal law between the MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) and OSDH.

• TR 16-123 Confirming the nomination of Wendy Dunson to serve on the MCN Election Board. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-0-1 with Rep. Thomas Yahola abstaining.

MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 19, Chapter 2-101 states that vacancies on the five-member election board will be nominated by the principal chief and confirmed by the Council.

Floyd nominated Dunson.

Yahola said he abstained from the vote because she is his niece.

• TR 16-124 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and the Indian Health Service (IHS) for the employment of Nathan Wyatt as commissioned personnel at MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The agreement would allow MCNDH to employ Wyatt as a health systems specialist.

Through the commission, IHS would assist MCNDH in enhancing their services.

• TR 16-125 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

Mvskoke Media contacted MCN Principal Chief James Floyd the morning of Aug. 4 and did not receive a comment on the legislation as of press time.

HHS OIG spokesperson Donald White responded to a phone inquiry from Mvskoke Media.

"As a matter of standard enforcement procedure, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services can neither confirm nor deny any possible settlement that may or may not be in process," he said.

The legislation states MCNDH has agreed to pay HHS OIG a settlement amount and that the agreement is not an admission of liability by MCNDH or one by HHS OIG that its claims are not well-founded.

• TR 16-126 Confirming the nomination of Samuel Whitlow to serve as the secretary of housing for the MCN Housing Department. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNCA states that this position must be nominated by the principal chief and confirmed by the Council.

Floyd nominated Whitlow and his term will expire concurrently with Floyd's.

Mvskoke Media has requested an interview with Whitlow regarding his nomination.

• TR 16-127 Authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23 U.S. Code or other federal statutes administered by the FTA. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The legislation would authorize the principal chief to file an application and cover matching costs in order to be eligible for an FTA grant towards transportation projects.

• TR 16-128 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an operating agreement for Duck Creek Indian Smoke Shop. Reps. Lucian Tiger and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

Duck Creek Indian Community would like to relocate their smoke shop and Council approval is needed since the location is on tribal property at, 10085 Ferguson Rd. in Beggs, just north of their community center.

They have entered into an operating agreement with Ronnie Boswell to operate and manage it and are also looking into purchasing a new building for the location.

• TR 16-129 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between MCN and OSDH to develop a Tribal Initiative M-POWER Program. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCN has been approached to participate in the OSDH program, Making – Policy, Outreach, Wellness, Equity Reality (M-POWER), that has the main goals of:

Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption as well as physical activity and eliminating secondhand smoke exposure and decreasing the number of tobacco users.

• TR 16-130 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service contract on behalf of MCNDH with Zeiss Medical Inc. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

According to their website, Zeiss provides medical products for ophthalmology/optometry; ears, nose and throat; spine; dental and gynecologic surgery as well as intraoperative radiotherapy.

• TR 16-131 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service line agreement with Suddenlink for the purpose of providing and maintaining cable network services to the MCN Travel Plaza. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The Okmulgee Travel Plaza requested cable network services and the agreement would authorize Suddenlink to provide them.

• TR 16-132 Confirming the nomination of Linda Roe, C.P.A. as the controller for MCN. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNCA states that this position must be nominated by the principal chief and confirmed by the Council.

Floyd nominated Roe and her term will expire concurrently with his.

Mvskoke Media has requested an interview with Roe regarding her nomination.

• TR 16-133 Confirming the nomination of Robert Hawkins Jr. to serve as chief of the lighthorse administration. Reps. Rufus Scott, Adam Jones, Yahola and Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNCA states that this position must be nominated by the principal chief and confirmed by the Council.

Floyd nominated Hawkins and his term will expire concurrently with Floyd's.

Mvskoke Media has requested an interview with Hawkins regarding his nomination.

• TR 16-134 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board (GOAB) to execute a Williams Scotsman Inc. lease agreement. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

GOAB needs Council approval to have Williams Scotsman Inc. modular buildings installed at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

• TR 16-135 Authorizing GOAB to execute the first amendment to the minimum lease agreement with Video Gaming Technologies and minimum lease agreement first amendment with Aristocrat Technologies Inc. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

An original agreement GOAB had with the company, which was approved by Council, needs to be amended and this action also requires Council approval.

During the Aug. 17 Council Business, Finance and Justice (BFJ) Committee meeting, a GOAB representative said:

"…within the contract there was a portion that had $200,000 in it for miscellaneous or unforeseen costs that they would cover for us.

"So during this process and when we moved the poker room over into the new area, into Margaritaville, it opened up a space where we could put 80 some odd games in.

"So I went back to them and asked, 'what are those games worth?' and they said $1.5 million and I said, 'OK, we'll make an amendment to the contract and we'll take your $1.5 million.' So we're requesting your (Council's) approval for this," he said.

• TR 16-136 Authorizing GOAB to execute a kiosk and ATM agreement with U.S. Bank National Association D/B/A Ultron Processing Services. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNCA requires Council approval for GOAB to enter into a contract over one year and this contract would be three.

During the Aug. 17 BFJ meeting, the GOAB representative said:

"If we are able to execute this, we will receive a $99,000 sign on bonus and then basically off of these fees, we get 17.5 cents per transaction out of the 39 cents per transaction, so we'll be sharing that revenue with U.S. Bank.

"Then we also charge $2.75 per transaction for the fee of just doing business and that's going to be moved to $3 and right now we're averaging about $260,000 per month overall the properties in income from these kiosks," he said.

• TR 16-137 Authorizing GOAB to execute the Tulsa Airports advertising agreement. Hufft sponsored the agreement, which passed 13-0.

During the Aug. 17 BFJ meeting, the GOAB representative said:

"If any of you all have flown recently, we don't have a presence at the Tulsa Airport and that's becoming a regional destination and we need a presence at the airport.

"What we're doing…what we're requesting to do is there are two elevator shafts that as you're walking through,

Council - 4



Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

are plastered with OSU on it. They've had those for 15 years, went through a private bid process and we won the bid so we'll be taking over probably one of the most seen areas in the airport as you're walking out," he said.

• **TR 16-138 Authorizing GOAB to execute a SynkBox purchase agreement with Konami Inc. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.**

During the Aug. 17 BFJ meeting, the GOAB representative said:

"We have hardware with our machines called SynkBoxes. I believe there's 2,163 that needed a home so we went back to Konami and they're buying them back from us at $170 per synkbox," he said.

• **TR 16-139 Amending TR 16-010 (Authorizing GOAB to execute global payments gaming services agreements for check guarantee services, check cashing services and cash advance services for MCN gaming operations). Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.**

During the Aug. 17 BFJ meeting, the GOAB representative said:

"What this is, is for every POS (point of sale), or department that uses a credit card, actually it's expanding this agreement to cover our resorts.

"So you previously approved this contract but it didn't include the resort side. So we have to have what's called a merchant link ID, so when we do a transaction in our system, it can hold that room out there for a certain period of time and if they don't show up, that's how we get our deposit money.

"So if they don't cancel it within a certain period of time, so it just allows us, if they don't show up, to reap a little bit of revenue," he said.

The funding source for NCAs 16-121, 122, 128, 129, 130 and 131 is interest on the permanent fund.

• **NCA 16-119 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Education and Training Mvskoke Language Program Immersion Camp fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

The department wants to move funds to the conferences/seminars/meetings line item to cover expenses for their immersion camp.

• **NCA 16-120 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Community and Human Services Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) for the for the Family Violence Prevention Services Administration's (FVPSA) Grant budget for FY 2016. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

FVPP is looking to move funds from the Salary/Wages line item to Contractual for billboards and other means to promote their program services.

Increases to the Project Activity line will be used to plan Domestic Violence Awareness Month events and the remainder of allocations will go to Direct Client Services lines including Vehicle Lease and Direct Assistance.

• **NCA 16-121 Authorizing a $160,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Tribal Energy Program for energy assistance related services. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

The program needs the money to continue funding for energy assistance grants and air conditioners for eligible applicants.

During the Aug. 8 Council Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Committee meeting, Rep. Randall Hicks asked about units that had burned in a storage fire.

A representative from the program said there were 26 lost and they were not insured because the storage company used did not belong to MCN and did not provide coverage.

Deere asked where they would be stored moving forward.

The representative said they are looking into onsite storage but have not found enough space yet. She said in the past, the air conditioner vendor had given them vouchers, which allowed them to be stored at the point of sale until the program need them.

Jennings asked MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger if they were covered under MCN Risk Management's insurance and Dellinger said it was worth looking into moving forward but they probably would have had to have been notified to add the lost units beforehand to cover this instance.

$142,500 will go towards the grants and $17,500 will go towards air conditioners.

• **NCA 16-122 Authorizing a $10,000 donation to sponsor the third annual Tulsa Charity Flight Night. Tiger and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-1 with Deere voting against it.**

MCN sponsored the event last year, which raised $501,827 for hands-on science, technology, engineering and math education.

The money from last year went to expand the quadcopter challenge and this year's effort will focus on involving more students and educators.

In a returned call to the 'Muscogee Nation News' Deere provided the following prepared statement:

"While I support the funding efforts of this event, and the education of students with regards to STEM, the law, MCNCA Title 35, Subsection 12-103F specifies that this charity is eligible for a donation of $5,000.

"I voted no on this legislation based on the principle that an amount has been set by law but was being waived for this particular charity," she said.

By law, the amount limit can be waived by a two-thirds vote of the whole Council, which this amendment garnered.

She went on to say MCN provided more money to them last year than what was asked for this time.

"But I just still feel like, you know we've got a lot of need within the Nation and if we set an amount, I just feel like we need to go with that amount, especially with something like that because they get a lot of donations from other huge organizations," Deere said.

• **NCA 16-124 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Tribal Transit Program (TTP). Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

TTP is looking to move money from one line item to another in their FY 2010 budget to cover certain existing expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

During the Aug. 9 Council Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation (LNC) Committee meeting, a representative for TTP, which also oversees Transportation spoke on NCAs 16-124, 125 and 126.

In general, he said the modifications were to expend leftover money from previous FYs to cover certain existing needs and expenses.

• **NCA 16-125 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

Transportation is looking to move money from one line item to another in their FY 2010 budget to cover certain existing expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

• **NCA 16-126 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

Transportation is looking to move money from one line item to another in their FY 2011 budget to cover certain expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

• **NCA 16-127 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Natural Resources Conservation District for FYs 2014, 2015 and 2016. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

During the Aug. 9 LNC meeting, a representative spoke to the bill saying that they are trying to clear out existing funds from other FYs and get things started for the conservation district.

They said their entity had a deficit in a line item to cover a truck they have and they are looking to fund the purchase of another one.

• **NCA 16-128 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to Morris Public Schools. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

Morris had a wrestling program for the first time last year that was primarily made up of Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

The school is unable to fund the program and the school's wrestling club is looking for help to cover the expenses for this year after raising $2,000 themselves.

• **NCA 16-129 Authorizing a $3,328.97 special appropriation to West Eufaula Indian Baptist Church. Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

The church requested assistance to buy a riding lawn mower.

They are not eligible for the MCN church grant program.

• **NCA 16-130 Authorizing a $9,125 appropriation on behalf of Choska United Methodist Church. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

During the Aug. 9 LNC meeting, Hill explained that the churches main structure was in a state of disrepair that would cost a lot of money to fix.

Hill said he asked the previous administration last year about five unused trailer houses at the Okemah casino to see if one could be donated to the church instead.

He said Gaming paid to relocate the structure then but could not pay for the utilities and the current Housing Department employees noticed an outstanding balance on the utilities due to a miscommunication and approached the church to cover them.

This legislation would cover their expenses since the need is pressing and they do not have time to go through the MCN church grant program.

• **NCA 16-131 Authorizing a $6,838 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen for additional funds for church camp house repairs. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was referred back to committee.**

Phyllis Noon Givens received funding through the MCN churches grant program for her camp house but it was damaged in a storm and requested money to cover damages.

In an 'MNN' interview, Yahola said it was referred back to committee to explore funding the repairs through the same grant program.

• **NCA 16-133 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Long Term Acute Care Hospital. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

MCNDH is looking to move excess money from one line item to another in their budget to cover certain expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

During the Aug. 8 HEW meeting, MCNDH Acting Secretary Shoneen Alexander Ross said:

"This is to modify the budget to cover some professional service costs…"

She said they are going to use the salaries from vacant positions to cover these costs.

• **NCA 16-134 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Skilled Nursing Facility. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

MCNDH is looking to move excess money from one line item to another in their budget to cover certain expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

During the Aug. 8 HEW meeting, Ross said:

"It would be a budget modification for professional services. That does include physicians…dieticians and then we're going to use the salaries from vacant positions to cover these costs as well," she said.

• **NCA 16-135 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

MCNDH is looking to move excess money from one line item to another in their budget to cover certain expenses and the amount is over that allowed without Council approval.

During the Aug. 8 HEW meeting, Ross said:

"This will be used to cover professional services and we will use salaries as well," she said.

• **NCA 16-136 Amending MCNCA Title 32, Chapter 3, titled 'Surplus Tribal Property, Procedures For Disposal.' Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

It would amend the section of the code regarding tribal vehicles.

It would change the language from saying that those which have been 'determined to be surplus property…may be traded in for case value towards the purchase of a new or used vehicle or sold for parts or scrap' to say that vehicles 'that have reached the retirement criteria under fleet policy' can still be traded in 'or sold by sealed bids for cash…' and eliminating the ability to put those funds towards used vehicles.

• **NCA 16-137 Amending MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 8, titled 'Office of the Secretary of the Nation and Commerce' and establishing a new office known as 'Office of the Secretary of Commerce.' Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.**

During the Aug. 17 BFJ meeting, Dellinger proposed an amendment to the original bill that was introduced to address concerns that changing the secretary of the nation position to secretary of commerce would conflict with Article 6, Section 8 of the MCN Constitution.

According to the Constitution on the MCN Supreme Court website, this legislation allows Muscogee (Creek) citizens to propose enacting or rejecting legislation through a petition of eight percent of

Council - 5



Sterling Cosper/MNN

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 27 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the voters in the last MCN general election.

The petition must be filed with the secretary of the nation, addressed to the principal chief and then submitted to the citizens to vote on in a special election unless there is a general election within 90 days.

The proposed measure must be approved by majority vote of the citizens and cannot be vetoed by the principal chief.

Hill asked why the name change was necessary since many of the duties would be similar.

Dellinger said the new title would better reflect these duties.

Floyd said that 90 percent of the job is commerce related and did not equally entail representing the nation abroad as is implied in such a title as secretary of the nation or state.

After further discussion, the bill was amended to make the title secretary of the nation and commerce.

The bill passed unanimously in committee.

Reps. Pete Beaver, Hufft, Hill, Jones and Hicks are on BJF and commonly, the committee chairperson (BFJ is Hufft) will not vote unless there is a tie.

'MNN' called representative Hicks the afternoon of Aug. 30 and left a voicemail, which was not returned as of press time.

During the BFJ meeting Hicks asked Dellinger what the difference is between the Constitution and the law.

Dellinger said that the Council can change the law and the constitutional changes have to be made by a vote of the people.

Hicks asked if the laws should equal what the Constitution does.

Dellinger said it is still secretary of the nation, which still matches the affected portion of the Constitution but just adds commerce.

Hicks said he sees it as not matching.

"Because the Constitution is saying 'secretary of the nation' not 'secretary of the nation and commerce,' " he said.

Dellinger said he understood but that it would be someone that is holding both the titles of secretary of the nation and commerce.

"With this change, you'll still have that person there that can take the initiative petitions…and I think that's the really important thing is that we have that person there so our citizens can file and initiative petition…" he said.

The amendment would also eliminate the requirement of Muscogee (Creek) citizenship to fill the position as well as move the Office of Self-Governance and the Mvskoke Loan Fund Community Development and Financial Institution Program under the position.

According to previous 'MNN' coverage, the CDFI was created to help Native American entrepreneurs start or further develop their business.

Jack and Hufft were excused from the regular session.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled Sept. 30.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com. It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Director

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Turner said he understands that one of the biggest aspects of the job is bringing people to the Nation, often through events like the annual MCN Festival.

"When I was interviewing for this position, I was told there would be a lot of moving parts to being a director. That is what I like about this challenge. Does not bother me to be working on 10 things at one time.

"I work diligently throughout the day. I show up everyday with a 'to-do' list and I intend to get certain things done throughout the day," he said.

Turner said he is a bit of a visionary and does not see things for what they are but rather what they can be.

He hopes to exercise this personal trait through further development of the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

"I want our citizens to be able to take advantage of the services that we offer here," he said. "I want it to be a perfect recreational area that offers everything that our citizens could ever dream of."

Turner said there are a lot of ideas that his department has been floating around and that he is also open to some from citizens. Turner said TR has opportunities simply through being a part of the Five Civilized Tribes.

"We all understand that we're a big opportunity to develop tourism for our Nation," he said. "We can also bring people in to help them to educate and understand our culture."

Turner said that of the tribes in northeastern Oklahoma, MCN is in the center of Native tourism.

"It is us, Creek Nation," he said.

Turner said he was not looking for a job when he came across the director posting.

"It is definitely a blessing," Turner said. "I decided in my life that I would be open to opportunities. So when I saw this online, I applied, interviewed and then was offered the job."

"I decided in my life that I would be open to opportunities. So when I saw this online, I applied, interviewed and then was offered the job."

— MCN Tourism and Recreation Director David Turner

Turner said he is a firm believer in Christ and he prays specifically for the Lord to open doors.

"I felt like this door was very much wide open and left open for me to walk through," Turner said.

Turner is married to Leslie and they have one daughter. MCN Tourism and Recreation can be reached at: 918-732-7984.

ROSS GROUP

SOLICITATION FOR BIDS
(BID NOTICE)

EUFAULA INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

DESIGN PACKAGE 1
Earthwork, utilities, geothermal well field, building and site concrete, and paving scopes only.

OVERALL PROJECT
Construction of new clinic and storage buildings totaling an estimated 70,000 sq. ft.
This project is planned to achieve LEED Certifiable.

Details for solicitation 04257.10 may be obtained by submitting an email request to *travis.magers@withrossgroup.com*

SOLICITATION CLOSES SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 AT 2:00 PM

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.

CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
- ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
- CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
- ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
- VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

TCIC election set for Sept. 22

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132 has set an officer election for 6-8 p.m., Sept. 22.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

Berryhill, Randall reunion set Sept. 24

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The descendants of the John Berryhill and Amy Randall family have set a family reunion for 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sept. 24 at the Wilson Indian Community Center in Henryetta, just north of Wilson High School.

For more information call: 918-442-6380 or 918-619-2389.

Fall revival set Sept. 25-27

EUFAULA, Okla. — Okfuskee Baptist Church has set a fall revival that begins 7 p.m. nightly, Sept. 25-27.

For more information call Colbert Hill at: 918-490-9019.

Springtown UMC revival set Oct. 2-4

COWETA, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church in Coweta has set a revival for Oct. 2-4, with Rev. Frank Little featured Oct. 2, Rev. Eli McHenry Oct. 3 and pastor Ray Samuel Oct. 4.

The event will start at 5 p.m., Oct. 2 when dinner will be served and 7 p.m., Oct. 3-4 with refreshments served.

For more information call: 918-270-0231.

TINA DENNISON



TULSA, Okla. — Tina Louise 'Weeze' Dennison, 48, of Sapulpa went to be with our Lord Sept. 3, 2016 at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa surrounded by her family.

Tina was born Dec. 29, 1967 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore to David and Sally (Rolland) Dennison Sr.

Tina attended Kellyville Public School System and graduated with the Class of 1986. She lettered in softball, basketball and volleyball. She earned a softball scholarship to Connors State College in Warner. While attending Connors State College her major was drafting and mechanical design. She also attended Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, Calif.

Tina was a homemaker and mother to all. She worked at Warehouse Market and Braum's in Sapulpa. She also worked at Kwikset in Bristow and Tulsa Community College.

Tina was an advocate for all children with a special place for Native American children. She volunteered many hours to the Sapulpa Indian Education Program, Muscogee (Creek) Nation – Euchee Language Learning Center, Euchee/Yuchi Language Program and the MCN – Sapulpa Child Development Center. Tina loved taking care of children and encouraged them to put their best foot forward.

Tina was a lifelong member of the Native American Church – Yuchi Chapter and Polecat (Kellyville) Ceremonial Ground. Tina also attended the Faith Tabernacle Church in Sapulpa.

Tina's hobbies included art, fishing and spending time with her family. She had a special relationships with her niece Chelsea Dennison, Sapulpa and her 'Little Melons' James and Jeanie DeSantis of Columbus, Ohio. Tina LOVED supporting all of her many nieces and nephews as they participated in various activities.

Tina is preceded in death by her: mother, Sally Elizabeth (Rolland) Dennison; maternal grandparents, Albert and Nancy (Watashe) Rolland and paternal grandparents, George and Josephine Dennison.

Tina is survived by her: father, David Lewis Dennison, Sr. of the home; brother and family, David and Daniele Dennison Jr. and Lindsey Nicole, all of Sapulpa, Alex, Fallon, Kristin and Kolton Dennison of Okmulgee; sister and family, Denise Dennison, Jason, Lindsey Ellen and Chelsea Dennison of Sapulpa; sister and husband, Dawn and Anthony (Tony) DeVorse of Tulsa; sister, Jessica 'Bunny' Dennison-Frazier of Sapulpa; sister, Marquetta Dennison and Robert Jones of Sapulpa; sister, Mardee and Tony DeSantis of Columbus, Ohio; sister, Sarah and Tony Perez of Fletcher; aunt, Eleanor Dennison and Aunt Evonne Rogers of Naschitti, N.M.; aunt, Emma and Amos Tony of Tohotchi, N.M.; aunt, Margaret (Rolland) LongHorn of Sapulpa; aunt, Carolyn (Rolland) and Charles Turk of Santa Ana, Calif.; uncle, James 'Mike' Rolland and Jo-Anna Lowe of Glenpool and uncle, Robert and Jacqueline Rolland of Sapulpa, along with numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and her special fishing buddy, Blake Long of Sapulpa.

Tina's family is headquartering at the Rolland Home Place. Services were led by her brother, David Dennison Jr. Wake Service was held Sept. 6 at Smith Funeral Home Chapel followed with a fellowship dinner at the Rolland Home Place. A funeral service was held Sept. 7 at Smith Funeral Home Chapel followed with burial at the Watashe Family Cemetery and returning to the Rolland Home Place. The funeral was under the direction of Smith Funeral Home. The family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude for all of the thoughts, prayers, time and donations that have been given on behalf of our sister Tina.

Tina was GREATLY loved by all!

JOE FISH



WELLSTON, Okla. — Joe Chochie Fish passed away September 4, 2016 at his residence south of Wellston. Joe was born in Henryetta around 1916, to Little Fish and Lona (Williams).

After losing his parents at an early age, Joe received his education from Nuyaka and Chilocco Indian Schools, graduating in 1938. He was inducted into the U.S. Army Jan. 10, 1942, serving with the 7th Division in the World War II Pacific Theater. During his tour of duty he fought on the Aleutian island of Attu, the Philippine Islands and the Easter Invasion of Okinawa. He spent time in Hawaii recovering from an injury. Joe received the Bronze Arrowhead Award, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star and Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged on Nov. 27, 1945 at the rank of sergeant. He married Dolores Boling in 1953.

During his life, he worked as a carpenter and as an aircraft electrician at Tinker Air Force Base until 1974, when he retired. Since then, Joe spent his time raising cattle, pigs and chickens, and generally enjoying life on his farm. Joe always had someone at his home. He had many friends who frequently came to sit in his yard and visit for long hours. Others would just drop by, asking Joe to tell or show them how to do something. For years, energetic baseball games were held every Sunday at 'Fish Field.' Although he never participated, Joe really enjoyed visiting with the elders and watching the game. Poker games were a common occurrence on weekend nights and were attended by many.

He stayed busy working the garden and serving as the patriarch of the family. He believed in hard work, fairness, humility, kindness and generosity. When asked about his faith, Joe quoted John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.'

He is survived by: sons, Roger (Gail), Gerald (Donna), Doyle (June), Brad (Mindy) and Tony (Rosa) Fish; daughters, Candy (Jim) Klumpp, Connie Hill, Cindy (Thomas) Labeff and Jolynn Frye; 30 grandchildren and 64.5 great-grandchildren.

When their fathers passed away early, Joe unofficially adopted Bill Scott and Bob Wilkie and raised them as his own. Many others considered him a father figure, especially the children of one of his best friends, Norma Scott: Steve, Tommy and Gail Kaskaske; Corene, Ruth and Mike Scott and Randy Chakenatho. He never turned anyone away, always offering folks a meal and a place to sleep.

He was preceded in death by his: parents; brothers, John and Billy Fish; sisters, Winey Douglas, Mildred Gilroy, Mahalia Hickman and Kate Litsey along with many friends.

Funeral services were held Sept. 8, 2016 at Harrah Church, 101 South Dobbs in Harrah and officiated by pastors Brad Wood, Thomas Labeff and Tuney Ropp.

Pallbearers were grandsons: Roger Jr., John, Doug, Cody, Jason, Riley, Randall, Chad, William and Justin Fish; Joseph Hill and Matthew Wood.

Graveside services and interment were held at the Fish family cemetery in Henryetta. Military honors were provided by Creek Nation Honor Guard.

The family would like to thank the staff of Oklahoma City VA Home Based Primary Care and caregivers Jeri, Matt, Dorinda and our sister Ruth Scott for the great care that was provided to our father over the last few years. The Lord was great in providing for Joe and taking him peacefully from this world. He will be greatly missed.

WILLIE RANDALL



TULSA, Okla. — Willie Charley Randall was born Jan. 10, 1931 in Henryetta to Timmie and Rosie (West) Randall. He passed away Aug. 26, 2016 in Tulsa.

Willie served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He later worked in shipping and receiving for Sears until his retirement. He enjoyed watching Thunder basketball, OU Football and Dancing with the Stars. He served as pastor of Grave Creek Church until 2013 and was acting deacon until that time. There, he served the Lord faithfully until his health started to fail him.

Willie is preceded in death by his: parents, Timmie and Rosie Randall; sons, Nelson Randall and Donnie Randall and wife, Vena Mae Sampson Randall.

Left to cherish his memory are his: son, Ronnie Randall and wife of Watson; daughter, Wilma Randall of Florida; granddaughter, Regina Randall of Tahlequah; granddaughter, Stephanie Campbell of Lonoke, Ark.; grandson, Jeremy Randall of Lonoke, Ark.; stepdaughters, Sharon Whitecloud of Okmulgee, Pam Palmer of Okmulgee, Peggy Powell of Preston, and Anita Sue Powell of Preston; stepsons, Rusty Powell of Preston and Rick Powell of Okmulgee along with a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service for Willie was held Aug. 31 at Grave Creek Baptist Church with Revs. Tim Lowe and Norman Daniel officiating. Interment followed at the Randall Family Cemetery in Henryetta.

Presidential

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

homa State Election Board website, the last day to register to vote for the presidential election is Oct. 14.

The deadline to submit a request for an absentee ballot is by 5 p.m. CST Nov. 2.

For information on registering to vote or changing your registration in the state of Oklahoma, visit: http://tinyurl.com/hdpk-mzo.

Mvskoke Media reached out to Democrat Party candidate Hillary Clinton for comment on issues pertaining to MCN and Indian Country. Clinton's campaign declined an interview or written response, but referred us to: http://tinyurl.com/zt5k9df.

For more information about Clinton, visit: www.hillaryclinton.com.

Mvskoke Media reached out to Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson for comment on issues pertaining to MCN and Indian Country. Johnson's campaign declined an interview, but asked for questions for a written response. Mvskoke Media did not receive any responses as of press time.

For more information about Johnson, visit: www.johnsonweld.com.

Mvskoke Media reached out to Green Party candidate Dr. Jill Stein for comment on issues pertaining to MCN and Indian Country. Stein's campaign declined an interview, but asked for questions for a written response.

Mvskoke Media did not receive any responses as of press time.

For more information about Stein, visit: www.jill2016.com.

Mvskoke Media reached out to Republican Party candidate Donald Trump for comment on issues pertaining to MCN and Indian Country. Trump's campaign did not respond.

For more information about Trump, visit: www.donaldjtrump.com.

In the interest of neutral news coverage, the Mvskoke Media news team decided not to endorse a political candidate or party for the 2016 election.

The Mvskoke Media news team encourages eligible Muscogee (Creek) citizens to register and vote in tribal, local, state and national elections in an effort to highlight Native issues and grant each individual an opportunity to choose the candidate that best represents their ideals and values.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated

Title 37, Chapter 2 titled 'Budget and Finance,' Subchapter 7, Section 2-709 (approved Oct. 18, 1988 - ammended April 6, 1989)

'The controller shall prepare quarterly financial statements which disclose receipts, encumbered, expended, unencumbered and cash balance, contract funds for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This report shall be published each fiscal quarter in the Muscogee Nation News with a narrative explaining the financial statement.'

The following is a narrative provided by the MCN Office of the Controller:

Receipts are revenue received, encumbered are purchase orders issued for supplies, etc., expenses are purchases for each program, unencumbered would be the same as cash balance.

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME	RECEIPTS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	UNENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	TRIBAL FUNDS:					
002360	ECON DEVELOPMENT	5,214,142.65	-	-	-	5,214,142.65
004163	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	2,624,462.09	-	-	-	2,624,462.09
008234	TAXES & LICENSES	2,725,143.05	-	-	-	2,725,143.05
008235	MOTOR FUEL TAXES	549,655.20	-	-	-	549,655.20
008599	DEBT RETIREMENT FUND	10,266,330.76	-	-	-	10,266,330.76
008560	GAMING	39,747,429.89	-	-	-	39,747,429.89
008561	**PERMANENT FUND**	**6,028,655.38**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,028,655.38**
009734	MOTOR VEHICLE	1,693,186.65	-	-	-	1,693,186.65
009938	HEALTH EDUCATION FUND	7,570.98	-	-	-	7,570.98
009940	HEALTH SERVICE FUND	2,570,128.16	-	-	-	2,570,128.16
101327	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	85.00	-	-	-	85.00
102005	LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	1,476.40	-	-	-	1,476.40
101662	**FLEET MANAGEMENT**	**60,009.92**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**60,009.92**
102007	ALCOHOL/DRUG PREVENTION	29,534.37	-	-	-	29,534.37
102008	LIQUOR/BEVERAGE	90,049.01	-	-	-	90,049.01
102160	GAMING RESERVE	4,536.98	-	-	-	4,536.98
102239	TRIBAL TRADE & COMMERCE	0.46	-	-	-	0.46
102360	**ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND**	**6,577,670.92**	**43,861.85**	**728,770.30**	**-**	**5,805,038.77**
104151	TREASURY	5,093.62	-	21,418.50	-	(16,324.88)
104152	ANGEL TREE	4,066.26	-	4,257.32	-	(191.06)
108230	LITIGATION & LOBBYING	340.52	-	-	-	340.52
108234	**GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES**	**4,404,313.82**	**24,543.98**	**1,381,077.58**	**-**	**2,998,692.26**
108235	MOTOR FUEL TAXES	2,293,511.64	-	1,877,386.25	-	416,125.39
108241	RAMAH CONTRACT SUPPORT	2,222.45	-	-	-	2,222.45
108475	TERO	118,160.26	31.99	52,378.63	-	65,749.64
108476	MVSKOKE MEDIA REVOLVING	38,759.35	11,552.82	29,046.95	-	(1,840.42)
108477	PUBLIC RELATIONS	8,850.00	-	7,547.00	-	1,303.00
108478	GAMING REVOLVING	919,209.55	-	-	-	919,209.55
108483	CN FESTIVAL	597,148.78	21,419.99	515,211.74	-	60,517.05
108553	CONSUMER LOANS	4.41	-	-	-	4.41
108560	**MCN GAMING**	**75,571,345.09**	**1,645,074.88**	**41,742,360.47**	**-**	**32,183,909.74**
108564	BOK SETTLEMENT	1.64	-	-	-	1.64
108565	CULTURAL PRESERVATION	296,034.25	10,236.33	176,184.18	-	109,613.74
108568	CODIFICATION	44.05	-	-	-	44.05
108575	MCN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	786,496.86	194,174.47	500,947.57	-	91,374.82
108576	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	-	-	1,440.12	-	(1,440.12)
108590	COURT ORDER RESTITUTION	1.30	-	-	-	1.30
108599	**DEBT RETIREMENT FUND**	**19,553,067.66**	**-**	**11,391,849.24**	**-**	**8,161,218.42**
109352	TRIBAL BUDGET	291,188.64	-	290,679.00	-	509.64
109612	MCN FLAGS & ETC	21.74	-	-	-	21.74
109614	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	24.04	-	-	-	24.04
109734	MOTOR VEHICLE	2,388,022.82	29,448.01	1,026,412.81	-	1,332,162.00
109938	HEALTH EDUCATION	12,551.55	-	12,551.55	-	-
109939	GENERAL CONTRACT HEATLH	36,000.00	-	283,816.92	-	(247,816.92)
109940	72 HOUR	4,099,861.25	-	4,099,861.25	-	-
109941	WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	29,534.38	-	-	-	29,534.38
109956	LIGHTHORSE	9,136.49	-	(80.00)	-	9,216.49
109959	LIGHTHORSE FORFEIT/SEIZURE	2.59	-	3,663.00	-	(3,660.41)
109976	INSURANCE LOSS FUND	24,814.25	-	32,629.00	-	(7,814.75)
109972	ONAC	-	-	3,453.75	-	(3,453.75)
109980	MITC-REACH US	-	-	11,232.13	-	(11,232.13)
109981	MITC-NATIONAL NETWORK	-	-	17,055.26	-	(17,055.26)
118561	PERMANENT FUND	4,361,778.84	14,307.08	3,277,564.43	-	1,069,907.33
118595	MERRILL LYNCH	28,588,293.94	-	444,365.33	-	28,143,928.61
118597	BOKF CAVANAL HILL	986,464.90	-	71,943.53	-	914,521.37
	FEDERAL FUNDS:					
201513	HISTORIC PRESERVATION	176.12	-	-	-	176.12
211111	NAHASDA '11	21,873,571.55	1,298,828.80	11,275,073.23	-	9,299,669.52
211488	MICROENTERPRISE LOANS	107,220.64	-	82,990.29	-	24,230.35
211611	NAHASDA '16	15,851,128.04	234,431.59	142,728.43	-	15,473,968.02
221108	TANF	38,714.93	-	38,714.93	-	-
221208	TANF 12	1,357.53	594.20	1,357.53	-	(594.20)
221308	TANF 13	7,058.20	49.90	8,028.17	-	(1,019.87)
221408	TANF 14	79,547.28	39,369.79	80,322.24	-	(40,144.75)
221424	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '14	30,341.26	2,052.00	30,341.26	-	(2,052.00)
221425	CCDBG MANDATORY '14	952,743.87	4,225.93	955,894.40	-	(7,376.46)
221476	AOA ENP 14	74,373.87	-	74,373.87	-	-
221479	AOA NSIP	58,958.55	41,046.26	58,958.55	-	(41,046.26)
221504	LIHEAP 15	615.53	-	615.53	-	-
221508	TANF	769,010.98	3,910.33	775,756.92	-	(10,656.27)
221520	FAMILY PRESERVATION	229,526.31	8,157.52	232,140.89	-	(10,772.10)
221524	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '15	371,145.10	20,265.38	343,600.24	-	7,279.48
221525	CCDBG MANDATORY '15	224,123.88	29,075.03	190,302.13	-	4,746.72
221535	HEADSTART	361,439.66	-	361,439.66	-	-
221540	TITLE IV B	158,186.43	-	158,627.25	-	(440.82)
221544	FAMILY VIOLENCE	295,814.97	52,689.83	308,158.95	-	(65,033.81)
221604	LIHEAP '16	76,682.32	900.10	85,772.32	-	(9,990.10)
221608	TANF	10,184.18	3,841.71	10,202.03	-	(3,859.56)
221621	CHILD SUPPORT	1,006,442.85	75,446.20	1,033,229.06	-	(102,232.41)
221624	CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '16	1,140,342.36	27,205.54	1,179,296.90	-	(66,160.08)
221625	CHILD CARE MANDATORY '16	274,942.85	29,813.08	306,927.19	-	(61,797.42)
221635	HEAD START	1,106,847.77	15,504.62	1,129,652.03	-	(38,308.88)
222908	TANF	324,831.77		327,465.12	-	(2,633.35)
231485	BREAST PEER COUNSELOR '14	28,755.53	-	29,705.20	-	(949.67)
231585	BREAST PEER COUNSELOR '15	2,806.63	-	3,477.95	-	(671.32)
231641	FOOD DISTRIBUTION '16	632,990.29	10,908.98	641,245.90	-	(19,164.59)
231686	WIC	1,416,864.03	18,584.82	1,515,902.90	-	(117,623.69)

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated

Title 37, Chapter 2 titled "Budget and Finance," Subchapter 7, Section 2-709 (approved Oct. 18, 1988 - ammended April 6, 1989)

FUND ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME	RECEIPTS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	UNENCUMBERED	CASH BALANCE
	PROGRAM INCOME:					
241112	PROCEEDS OF SALE	105,442.92	19,794.84	165,698.25	-	(80,050.17)
241307	MVSKOKE LANGUAGE	1,165.18	494.55	6,415.85	-	(5,745.22)
241321	DISTRICT COURT	55,103.39	606.85	10,665.00	-	43,831.54
241326	MUSEUM & ARCHIVES	470.00	-	14,200.00	-	(13,730.00)
241327	POST GRADUATE EDUCATION	113,000.00	-	15,762.10	-	97,237.90
241467	CHARTER SERVICES	40,377.00	-	552.00	-	39,825.00
241500	REINTEGRATION	1,003.00	-	728.33	-	274.67
241515	YOUTH SERVICES	3,511.29	-	2,364.24	-	1,147.05
242981	WIC PROGRAM INCOME	454,325.34	-	454,325.34	-	-
242996	ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM	40.00	-	-	-	40.00
248402	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	15.33	-	-	-	15.33
248406	JOHNSON O'MALLEY	4,692.29	-	5,575.99	-	(883.70)
248411	HOUSING PROGRAM INCOME	1,868,409.43	22,244.96	1,057,672.89	-	788,491.58
248412	HA EMERGENCY REHAB	169,704.49	49,125.00	326,953.98	-	(206,374.49)
248425	MCN CHILD DEVELOP CENTER	561,200.70	52.00	236,446.47	-	324,702.23
248468	TRANSIT	30,036.18	-	3,600.00	-	26,436.18
248470	CHILD CARE USDA REIMBURSE	37,830.37	1,000.00	46,572.27	-	(9,741.90)
248471	HEAD START USDA REIMBURSE	160,223.24	43,086.98	111,702.54	-	5,433.72
248472	EUFAULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	9,369.92	9,038.45	33,287.58	-	(32,956.11)
248473	TRANSPORTATION IMPROV (TIP)	219.39	-	-	-	219.39
248475	ELECTION BOARD	158.40	-	-	-	158.40
248479	CITIZENSHIP BOARD	82,018.08	-	9,735.39	-	72,282.69
248480	FOOD DISTRIBUTION	3,304.44	-	-	-	3,304.44
248484	INDIAN ROADS (IRR)	110,832.57	3,254.70	36,151.69	-	71,426.18
248490	SECRETARY OF NATION	915.00	-	-	-	915.00
249990	SELF GOVERNANCE	9,668.06	-	-	-	9,668.06
	FEDERAL FUNDS:					
251449	NANHMS	-	12,618.75	10,041.07	-	(22,659.82)
251545	LIBRARY SERVICES	-		60.00	-	(60.00)
251550	NACA PROGRAM	21,462.90	3,750.00	10,225.12	-	7,487.78
251616	STEP PROGRAM	-	4,369.98	129,011.28	-	(133,381.26)
261221	EUFAULA DORM '12	120,884.43	6,139.27	25,724.37	-	89,020.79
261286	FEDERAL ROADS	2,911,529.38	929,075.32	1,170,806.16	-	811,647.90
261302	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	4,055.45	-	978.13	-	3,077.32
261306	JOM '13	1,335,145.42	3,656.29	651,751.90	-	679,737.23
261321	EUFAULA DORM '13	1,102,972.23	317.00	301,794.56	-	800,860.67
261386	FEDERAL ROADS	2,108,150.97	107,637.62	535,277.96	-	1,465,235.39
261413	PL 477	1,378,681.33	12,881.77	618,517.01	-	747,282.55
261421	EUFAULA DORM '14	744,715.90	82,977.24	125,384.81	-	536,353.85
261486	FEDERAL ROADS	5,650,053.79	404,163.92	1,188,967.11	-	4,056,922.76
261521	EUFAULA DORM	1,574,433.68	21,581.85	317,315.26	-	1,235,536.57
261586	FEDERAL ROADS	8,159,576.66	1,468,736.41	591,606.75	-	6,099,233.50
261602	JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	1,770.00	1,226.62	2,014.28	-	(1,470.90)
261606	JOM '16	723,890.00	-	-	-	723,890.00
262001	SELF GOVERNANCE	2,236,986.67	5,877,336.94	6,499,365.22	-	(10,139,715.49)
271468	DOT-TRANSIT PROGRAM	39,992.00	26,490.00	39,864.00	-	(26,362.00)
271568	DOT-TRANSIT PROGRAM	345,720.34	38,175.66	353,768.06	-	(46,223.38)
291307	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	91,715.71	1,662.87	93,291.51	-	(3,238.67)
291330	EXCHANGE NETWORK	123,910.28	9,805.89	125,272.09	-	(11,167.70)
291332	TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER	1,184,424.73	2,587,450.27	1,184,424.73	-	(2,587,450.27)
291406	SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES	56,105.12	8,540.45	64,778.80	-	(17,214.13)
291407	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	124,802.13	10,541.18	126,250.07	-	(11,989.12)
291410	GAP	55,472.51	1,348.00	56,649.14	-	(2,524.63)
291416	CLEAN WATER ACT	22,304.70	-	22,304.70	-	-
291432	JUSTICE,ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE	105,607.53	2,750.00	106,916.39	-	(4,058.86)
291439	CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT	55,152.34	-	55,887.02	-	(734.68)
291508	VOCA	24,614.80	-	48,334.37	-	(23,719.57)
291516	CLEAN WATER ACT	24,648.86	-	24,648.86	-	-
291518	TRIBAL RESOURCES PROGRAM	230,190.56	251,853.49	230,190.56	-	(251,853.49)
291532	JUSTICE,ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE	-	781.42	66,021.33	-	(66,802.75)
291616	CLEAN WATER ACT	28,145.63	933.75	24,220.58	-	2,991.30
292807	STOP VIOLENCE	3,030.45	-	-	-	3,030.45
	CONSTRUCTION FUNDS:					
411188	STUDENT CENTER LIBRARY	-	17,297.00	4,022.00	-	(21,319.00)
411288	STUDENT AUXILIARY BLDG	-	17,297.00	4,022.00	-	(21,319.00)
411332	TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER/REINTEGRATION	-	1,140,920.85	1,216,423.71	-	(2,357,344.56)
411388	FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTER	-	-	17,117.20	-	(17,117.20)
411493	CNG	-	-	345,000.00	-	(345,000.00)
411589	HOLDENVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER	-	78,500.00	57,255.64	-	(135,755.64)
	ENTERPRISE FUNDS:					
501111	37 ACT	1,778,128.11	-	1,997,622.54	-	(219,494.43)
501260	FOUNTAINHEAD CREEK GOLF	1,156,722.79	94,012.42	554,120.71	-	508,589.66
501350	CDFI	11,585.21	-	-	-	11,585.21
501351	IRP	6,972.38	-	-	-	6,972.38
502123	MUSKOGEE OFFICE BLDG	419,999.94	6,768.89	130,559.60	-	282,671.45
502456	I.H.S. OFFICE BLDG	35,606.97	-	-	-	35,606.97
504162	TRIBAL AGRICULTURE - DUSTIN FARMS	81,220.04	38,600.07	303,455.17	-	(260,835.20)
504165	HANNA INDIAN COMMUNITY	3,283.00	38,028.57	109,129.95	-	(143,875.52)
508483	TOURISM & RECREATION	1,711,312.00	131,222.08	986,380.79	-	593,709.13
509619	ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	256,466.95	37,219.75	(18,861.75)	-	238,108.95
	TRUST FUNDS:					
604191	MCN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	333,586.79	-	31,002.54	-	302,584.25
	INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS:					
702133	ROADS FORCE ACCOUNT	694,903.80	358,976.46	839,475.71	-	(503,548.37)
702536	NAHASDA FORCE ACCOUNT	1,132,028.75	156,781.72	1,038,621.67	-	(63,374.64)
702537	NAHASDA MAINTENANCE	86,911.25	10,221.87	81,067.57	-	(4,378.19)
704160	TRIBAL REAL PROP & FACILITY	2,087,724.34	26,783.13	1,352,950.33	-	707,990.88
704162	FLEET MANAGEMENT	990,904.00	125,225.15	477,999.56	-	387,679.29
704163	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	4,299,825.83	299,760.87	1,551,006.86	-	2,449,058.10
704164	SELF-INSURED HEALTH FUNDS	13,409,198.72	-	24,110,400.57	-	(10,701,201.85)
704165	TELEPHONY	1,062,145.59	1,233.41	780,466.71	-	280,445.47
708240	ADMIN/INDIRECT	4,949,030.35	93,317.80	4,913,509.32	-	(57,796.77)
	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:					
904331	CN FOUNDATION SCHOLAR FUND	285.48	-	-	-	285.48
904332	DORM SCHOLARSHIP FUND	14,472.04	-	-	-	14,472.04
904333	BELVIN HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	190.00	-	(40.00)	-	230.00
904334	HIGHER ED SCHOLARSHIP FUND	54,767.02	-	20,185.56	-	34,581.46
908477	NEIL CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP	7.09	-	-	-	7.09

Winner of the OK SPJ, Carter Bradley First Amendment & the NAJA, Elias Boudinot Free Press Awards

Oct. 1, 2016 "Otowoskvrakko" Big Chestnut Month

Vol. 46, Issue 20

Brief summary of TERO legislative actions — Page 2



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

'Tulsa Stands With Standing Rock' event held

Local protest held to show national impact, support

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Hundreds of people stood in solidarity Sept. 8 at Guthrie Green in Tulsa to show their support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who are opposing construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Dakota Morse and Lana Harjochee hosted the peaceful demonstration. The pair said they both wanted to join the ongoing protest in North Dakota, but did not have the funds or transportation to do so.

"So I thought what could I do here at home to raise awareness . . ." Morse said.

The tribe has stated that the project disrupts sacred burial sites and ancestral lands and has expressed concerns that a rupture in the pipeline would contaminate their water sup-

Stands ~ 5



Honey Caranzo/MNN
The Tulsa Stands With Standing Rock demonstration was held Sept. 8 at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa, Okla.



MNN File Photo

Council developments for September ahead of regular session

TERO, literacy program abolishment discussed during Council meeting

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A meeting of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee was held Sept. 12 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Reps. Johnnie Greene, Dode Barnett, James Jennings and Rufus Scott were present with Rep. Joyce Deere absent.

The committee addressed the following legislation:

NCA 16-123 Repealing MCN Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 9, titled 'The Tribal Employment Rights Office Act' and reallocating funds within the Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, the Office of the Principal Chief introduced it and the bill passed 2-1 with Barnett voting against it.

The legislation states the Council and principal chief have determined that TERO has not served the best interests of MCN.

It states the TERO funding and services will be absorbed by the Employment and Training Department.

During the meeting, Barnett made a motion to postpone the bill indefinitely, which did not get a second.

Jennings motioned for a 'do pass,' which was seconded by Scott.

During discussion on the bill, Barnett said NCA 16-147 proposing changes to TERO, was farther down the agenda and asked if this bill proposing to repeal it could be moved to the end of the meeting to have discussion on these changes.

"So that the discussion on the other bills can be heard before we make that decision either way for the department," she said.

Greene said she thought they should discuss the bill on the table.

Jennings reiterated this saying the bill had already been postponed from last month. He said Barnett sponsored the legislation and that it came from the Chief's Office stating they should go ahead and address it.

NCA 16-123 was later

Abolishment ~ 2

Annual budget, TERO waiver approved during Council session

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An extraordinary session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 12 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The National Council addressed the following legislation:

TR 16-152 Waiving the Tribal Employment Rights Office requirements for the MCN Department of Health Eufaula Clinic Project. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 8-4, with Reps. Dode Barnett, Randall Hicks, David Hill and Robert Hufft voting against it.

The legislation states that it is in the best interest of MCNDH to waive the TERO requirements for the project due to Health's budget issues.

During the session, Hufft said he is concerned that with the bill, there would be nothing mandating that

Waiver ~ 2

Entry of default withdrawn by court in housing suit

Dellinger files response for defendant

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to court documents obtained by Mvskoke Media, an order withdrawing an entry of default judgment was filed Aug. 26 in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court in the case of Barney Ingram v. MCN Department of Housing, Alvin Bucktrot and James Floyd.

According to www.legaldictionary.net, a default judgment is a court's decision in favor of either party because one party did not take action.

The document is signed by Judge Gregory Bigler and states, 'As Entry of Default was improvidently filed by Deputy Court Clerk, the Entry of Default is withdrawn until such time as the Court might grant judgment after Notice and Hearing.'

Ingram filed a petition for relief against MCN Housing, Bucktrot and Floyd for breach of contract and slander of title stemming from an issue with his home he obtained from an MCN Housing program.

The complaints described in the case, CV 16-114 state the defendant constructed a home for the plaintiff in a location not originally agreed upon by the parties around 1986, and that the mistake is causing Ingram extreme distress and lack of use and enjoyment of the property.

The documents state that around Jan. 6, Ingram entered into a contract with Housing in order for MCN to purchase the property back because of the home's location.

At the time the contract was allegedly signed, Bucktrot was not the acting secretary of housing.

The documents also state the propane company will no longer deliver propane to

Suit ~ 3

Emvponayv: One who tells the story

Native activists fight pipeline, Natives on Oscar Academy

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For most of Indian Country, the top story is that of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe standing to prevent the Dakota Access Pipeline from crossing an area that would endanger their water supply from the Missouri River, and would disrupt sacred sites and burial grounds.

What began as a grassroots opposition to the oil pipeline has swelled into a national movement as tribes from across the country are represented in the two camps established there.

The outpouring of support for the tribe and their allies is amazing and it has been compared to modern Native activist events such as the occupation of Alcatraz, the Trail of Broken Treaties and the American Indian Movement occupation of Wounded Knee.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the tribal government

Emvponayv ~ 3

Abolishment

Continued from page 1

postponed for two months 10-4 during the Sept. 24 Council regular session with Reps. Pete Beaver, Greene, Jennings and Scott voting against the motion.

During the regular session, Barnett said she made the motion citing a wish to allow more time for possible fixes to or replacements of the TERO legislation so that some form of tribal law was in place mandating hiring preference for Muscogee (Creek) and Native American citizens.

View our past coverage on proposed changes to TERO including an interactive timeline here: www.mvskokemedia.com/breakdown-of-changes-proposed-to-native-preference-law/.

NCA 16-147 Amending MCNCA, Title 16, Chapter 9, 'Tribal Employment Rights Office Act, Subsection 9-103, titled 'Definitions,' Subsection 9-105 titled, 'Power and Duties,' Subsection 9-106, titled 'Adoption of Rules, Regulations, Policies and Guidelines' and subsection 9-113, titled, 'Participation in Training Programs by Employees.' Barnett sponsored and introduced the amendment, which failed to get a second motion.

The legislation proposed changes to the law.

NCA 16-148 Authorizing a $1,826,000 appropriation for the MCN Department of Education and Training Literacy Program for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. Barnett sponsored and introduced the legislation, which failed to get a second motion.

During the meeting Barnett said that the MyOn Reading Program, which is part of the Literacy Program, is part of the federal State Tribal Education Partnership grant application to service Weleetka and Wetumka schools.

The legislation states that MCN received the STEP grant.

"If the committee is not happy with the bill as it is, at least entertain it for discussion and suggest amendments or someone else can work on it," she said.

Barnett said she had made efforts on the bill before the meeting.

"I've been trying to get the Department of Education and Training to negotiate a contract for six months and it hasn't happened yet," she said. "I negotiated this. I got the price down over 30 percent and this really isn't our role. It should have been done by the Department of Education and Training."

Barnett attempted to bypass committee during the Sept. 20 Council planning session with a two-thirds vote of the representatives present except for Rep. Lucian Tiger, who is the speaker. The motion failed 5-8 with Reps. Pete Beaver, David Hill, Robert Hufft, Adam Jones, Thomas Yahola, Deere, Greene, and Jennings voting against it.

Reps. Darrell Proctor and Mitch Jack were excused from the planning session.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com. It is also based on 'Muscogee Nation News:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

If approved in committee, legislation is referred on to the full Council for vote during their monthly regular or quarterly sessions and then sent to the principal chief.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign the legislation or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

Commonly, the committee chairperson (HEW is Greene) will not vote unless there is a tie.

TERO legislative actions

NCA 16-070 on May 10 HEW, repealing TERO, sponsored and introduced by Adam Jones

No action taken on the bill

NCA 16-123 on Aug. 8 HEW, repealing TERO and reallocating funds within Education and Training, sponsored by Dode Barnett and introduced by principal chief

Postponed one month

NCA 16-138 on Aug. 8 BFJ, creating new preference system for Muscogee (Creek) and Native American business contracts, sponsored by David Hill and introduced by principal chief

Postponed one month

NCA 16-123 again on Sept. 12 HEW meeting

Barnett makes motion to postpone indefinitely, which did not get a second

James Jennings makes motion do pass, which is seconded by Rufus Scott

Barnett asks to move down the agenda looking to address NCA 16-147, aimed at fixing TERO, which was on the same agenda and introduced and sponsored by her

Motion fails to get a second, TERO repeal passes committee 2-1 with Barnett voting against it

NCA 16-147 proposing fixes fails to get a second after Barnett motions to address

TR 16-152 waiving TERO fees for Eufaula hospital project

First public comments from Executive Branch on issues from Interior Secretary Chris Azbell

NCA 16-138 on Sept. 14 BFJ meeting, postponed again for one month with Hill saying to wait and see what happens with other legislation

NCA 16-123 postponed two months on a motion from Barnett during Sept. 24 regular session citing wish to address possible fixes/replacements

Waiver

Continued from page 1

citizens are hired for the job.

Later in the session, MCN Secretary of the Interior Chris Azbell said that the cost for jobs has increased due to the limited number of TERO certified contractors.

"If you look at any contract info, when you bid out a job like that, since TERO has been in place, the number of people who are actually bidding on our jobs has continued to dwindle," Azbell said.

Rep. Mark Randolph asked if there was any way Muscogee (Creek) preference could be worked into the project contract.

MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger referenced NCA 16-138, legislation with a similar purpose to TERO which was later addressed during the Sept. 14 Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting.

"I think what the new law that is being proposed is going to allow that to be looked at on a case-by-case basis," he said.

"So if that law goes into effect and passes, we will have something that is a law on the books that requires contractors to hire a certain number of Creek individuals for each job."

Hicks asked if one of the project contractors, Ross Group would be under the new law.

The BFJ legislation titled 'Buy Native Act' and 'Local Hire Act' was later postponed for one month during the Sept. 14 BFJ session by Hill who is the sponsor.

He cited a wish to see what happens to other TERO bills still being considered.

Hicks asked if the Eufaula project would be open for rebid if the TERO waiver passed.

"Because right now Ross Group has the contract where TERO was in effect, so now are we going to open it back up?"

Azbell said that Ross Group and the project architect, 1Architecture are TERO certified.

"Where Creek citizens are generally employed is…at the subcontractor level," he said. "It's generally laborers and etc. That's the process that we would be going through. So that wouldn't be an issue."

Rep. Darrell Proctor asked if the law will affect the project timetable.

He expressed concerns about whether or not a modification to this would affect Indian Health Service funding on the project since MCN and IHS will jointly finance it.

MCNDH Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Beaver said that it does from her understanding.

"They don't budget like the previous year like we are now for next year," she said. "They budget two, three years in advance and so they're trying to budget for the opening date. So if we get off schedule, then that's money at the end of the day that we lose."

NCA 16-161 Approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2017 and providing for appropriations. Speaker Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-1 with Rep. Rufus Scott voting against it.

During the session, Scott asked if he could make a motion to table a certain portion of the budget for 30 days.

'Muscogee Nation News' audio taken from the meeting on the specific item is unclear.

Tiger said that the budget must be voted on as presented in full.

Reps. Joyce Deere, Mitch Jack and Adam Jones were excused.

Legislation passed in extraordinary session reflects the final vote for Council approval.

The summary of each bill is attributed to language in the legislation.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the MCN National Council office at: 918-758-1410.

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Emvponayv

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have offered their support. National Council legislation has been passed and loads of food, water and other supplies have been taken to North Dakota.

A recent rally in downtown Tulsa drew hundreds of local Native people and supporters. Our own Mvskoke Media covered the story and presented segments on-line. It was good to hear the AIM song again and see our tribal flag being waved.

Up until recently, there has been pretty much a news blackout of the topic by the big-shot national news outlets. That has changed since reports of clashes between private security people and those opposing the pipeline. People being bitten by guard dogs and being maced got their attention.

It seems the old philosophy about choosing stories to cover by big newsrooms still is alive and well: 'If it bleeds, it leads.'

Here's a good fact that should be reported (and isn't): the original route planned for this pipeline took it north of the North Dakota cities of Bismarck and Mandan.

That plan got killed because leaders in those cities feared possible pollution of their water. The next plan (now being built) takes it next to the Standing Rock Sioux.

That's OK, huh? Similar projects like this in other parts of the country were called: 'Environmental racism.'

You call that one for yourself.

In a late update Friday, Sept. 9, a federal court ruled against the Standing Rock lawsuit to halt the project.

The court held that there had been required surveys, discussions and there were controls allowing the tribe to monitor the project. It was a 58-page decision. See for yourself: https://turtletalk.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/memorandum-opinion-09_09_2016.pdf

'For all of the above reasons, the Tribe has not carried its burden to demonstrate that the Court could prevent damage to important cultural resources by enjoining the Corps' DAPL-related permitting.'

But it ain't over 'til it's over.

Right after we saw the court ruling supporting construction, this little jewel appeared. **(Emphasis mine.)**

The Departments of Justice, the Army and the Interior issued the following statement regarding Standing Rock Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

'We appreciate the District Court's opinion on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. However, important issues raised by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribal nations and their members regarding the Dakota Access pipeline specifically, and pipeline-related decision-making generally, remain.

'Therefore, the Department of the Army, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior will take the following steps:

'The Army will not authorize constructing the Dakota Access pipeline on Corps land bordering or under Lake Oahe until it can determine whether it will need to reconsider any of its previous decisions regarding the Lake Oahe site under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or other federal laws. Therefore, construction of the pipeline on Army Corps land bordering or under Lake Oahe will not go forward at this time.'

See ' 'Tulsa Stands With Standing Rock' event held' on page one for the latest developments.

In other tribal water news, you may recall a story earlier this year about two Oklahoma tribes wrapping up a deal with the State of Oklahoma over their water rights. It was good news to see this one reported by several news agencies locally.

It all starts with the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, which recognized the authority of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations over the creek.

The state argued that the tribes gave up their sovereignty after backing the Johnny Rebs in the Civil War.

A tribal attorney said, nope, the new state gave up those rights in 1906 when it became a state.

The conflict began to be contested when Oklahoma City wanted some of that water and began a legal battle.

The tribes filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the Oklahoma Water Resources Board could not negotiate to use water from traditional Native American land. The State of Texas wanted some of that water, too.

But, a deal was worked out.

Oklahoma gets to manage the state's natural water supply but they have to recognize tribal sovereign authority and conservation guidelines. Oklahoma City gets its water.

Remember the uproar over the Motion Picture Academy being accused of not including minority members? Critics said the Oscar may be gold but Academy members were mostly white, and it showed in the award selections being overwhelmingly Caucasian.

Well, after a national uproar from minority peoples, that has been changed—somewhat.

Five industry participants of indigenous heritage have been invited to join the movie industry group according to the SunDance Academy: Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene) Adam Beach (Saulteaux of Dog Creek First Nation), Cliff Curtis (Te Arawa, Ngāti Hauiti), Heather Rae (Cherokee) and Taika Waititi (Te Whanau a Apanui).

Maybe if these folks had been in on the process a few years ago, we wouldn't have had to endure 'The Lone Ranger' or 'The Ridiculous Six?'

Glad to see those bombs never got any awards except some bad ones. Depp was nominated for a 2014 Razzie Award for 'The Lone Ranger,' for Worst Actor and the film won for Worst Remake, Rip-Off or Sequel.

And while we're looking at actors and movies, 'National Public Radio' reported the film legend John Barrymore stole a Tlingit (pronounced 'Klink-it') totem pole in 1931, and it eventually became a garden decoration for Vincent Price.

Good news, though. In October of last year, members of the Alaska tribe were allowed to return the carving to their village of Klawock.

That was a case where the Native American Graves Repatriation Act, actually worked.

Now for more of the local scene.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd is slowly getting his candidates for the top tribal cabinet spots approved by the National Council. For a while there, several of those names did not get past the Council.

The MCN Election Board is undergoing some examination, and there's a possible elimination or overhaul of the Tribal Employment Rights Office program.

Finally, going back to the North Dakota pipeline issue, while he was on tour of southeast Asia, a reporter from Laos asked President Barack Obama about his administration's stance on opposition to the DAPL project.

Obama kind of stammered and tried to 'PR' his way out of a jam. He talked about all the things his administration had done to support tribal futures, but failed to answer the question.

A simple 'yes, I do support them' or 'no, I don't' would have been enough, but no.

If you can't dazzle them with your brilliance, baffle them with B.S. It reminded me of being on the highway when one of those big semi livestock haulers goes by you. Fvmpe, (stinks).

Hvtvm Cehecares—(I'll see you again).



Suit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the property because the tank location violates state and federal regulations.

The complaint alleges that around March 18, Bucktrot canceled the agreement to repurchase the home.

The plaintiff requests in the petition, damages of $150,000 plus interest on the amount from July 31 to the date of judgment, attorney fees and court costs.

A request for a default judgment in the case was filed in the court by Ingram's attorney Aug. 25 stating, 'more than twenty-one (21) days have elapsed since the Defendant in this action served, and the defendant has failed to plead or otherwise defend as provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.'

MCN Attorney General and counsel for MCN Housing, Kevin Dellinger filed a response in opposition to the motion for a default judgment Sept. 6, stating that the plaintiff's motion for a default judgment applied Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which conflicts with the MCN Code Annotated.

It states MCNCA grants 30 days after receipt of the petition for a defendant to respond.

The document states that the motion for a default judgment was filed six days early and should be dismissed.

Bigler filed the order dismissing the entry of default Aug. 26. Dellinger filed a response Aug. 30 to the original petition for relief.

The document states that the petitioner has failed to provide evidence in the case, 'as the Petitioner has failed to produce an executed Conditional Real Estate Purchase Agreement between the MCN Department of Housing and the Petitioner.'

It also states that the statute of limitations has expired for the slander of title claim and lists other items the defendants disagree with outlined in the petition.

A motion to dismiss the case was filed by Dellinger Aug. 30 on the same grounds referenced in the 'answer' document.

Mvskoke Media will continue to follow the case and provide coverage accordingly.

Court documents can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS...

A pattern of behavior that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.

CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
- CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
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- VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGMENT.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

*Services offered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation, or sexual orientation.

EXAMPLES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Putting the partner down
Name calling
Humiliation
Making Partner feel bad about themselves

PHYSICAL ABUSE
Pushing
Hitting
Kicking
Biting
Strangling/Choking

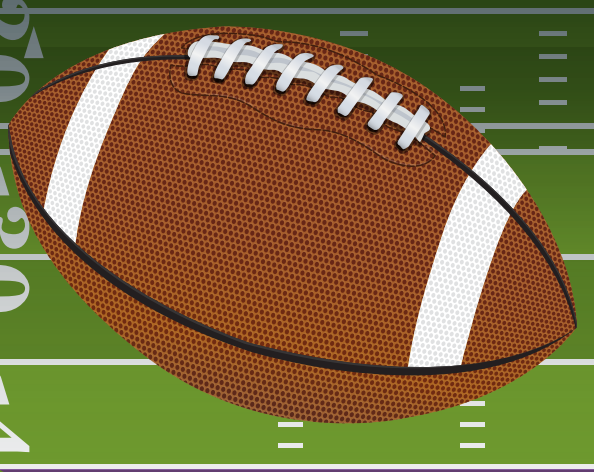
OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE
Preventing Partner from getting/keeping a job
Intimidation
Making Threats of Harm
Isolating from friends/family
Threatening to take children away/report to DHS



NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ABUSED.

"October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month"
The Family Violence Prevention Program
Invites You To
Join Us For A

TAILGATE PARTY



OCTOBER 6TH
3 PM - 6 PM
EVERYONE WELCOME

Join the Family Violence Prevention Program as we **Huddle Up and Make the Call to STOP** domestic violence at the **Mvskoke Dome** located at the **Claude Cox Omniplex** on **555 Tank Farm Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447**.

Come and Go Event. No Registration Required. For more information contact Tania Bardin at 918-732-7979 or email tbardin@mcn-nsn.gov.

Games ★ Prizes ★ Snacks
Information ★ Fun ★ T-Shirts

SAVE THE DATE

WARRIORS HONOR WOMEN CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016
8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
OKMULGEE, OK 74447

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Curtis Brungardt
• Coaching Boys Into Men Trainer
•Founder of Jana's Campaign:
"EDUCATION about and PREVENTION against gender and relationship violence."

To register or for more information, contact: Monte Randall:
(918) 549-2806 or mrandall@mcn-nsn.gov



Honey Caranzo/MNN
The Tulsa, Okla., demonstration was held to show support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's opposition of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

STANDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ply since it runs under the Missouri River.

"Our water is sacred. This is for everyone," Lakota Nation citizen Chelle Rider said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Rep. Mark Randolph shared a similar sentiment.

"You can't drink oil and you can't eat money," he said.

As the sun began to set over downtown Tulsa, the crowd of supporters grew.

"People that care can make a difference so it makes me feel good to see all these faces come together for one because you know and I know there's power in numbers," Pawnee Nation citizen Bobby Robedeaux said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Sydne Gray said she traveled from Norman to show her support for the protesters at Standing Rock and to raise awareness for the Plains All American Red River Pipeline construction in Cushing.

"So, I want all these people to be aware at the same time that here at home in Oklahoma, it's a really big concern for our water and we don't need any more pipelines," she said. "Mvto, thank you to all our warriors at the Standing Rock reservation and I wish we could be there but we are fighting here and we are fighting in solidarity with you."

Construction was halted temporarily Sept. 4 while a federal judge considered the tribe's request for a temporary restraining order on the $3.8 million project.

According to reports, Judge James Boasberg decided Sept. 9 against the request.

However, that same day a joint release from the U.S. Departments of Justice, Army and the Interior stated that the U.S. Army will not authorize construction on a site near or under Lake Oahe in the Dakotas, which is adjacent to the Missouri River.

According to www.indianz.com, the case, 'Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe v. United States Army Corps of Engineers and Dakota Access LLC' will go before a federal appeals court Oct. 5.

The hearing will address a request from the tribes for a more permanent injunction on the project while they attempt to appeal a lower court's ruling in favor of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Dakota Access LLC.

Fort Mims remembered

Ken Dunn
Non-citizen submission

SPRING VALLEY, Calif. — The most catastrophic events in the history of the Creek Nation east of the Mississippi were the events which began the Creek Red Stick War in 1812 and 1814.

The Red Sticks had originated as a Messianic Movement in the Upper Creek towns of Central Alabama, and Nativist reaction to pressure of trade and conflict with usurping white populations surrounding the Creeks.

The Red Sticks also began to organize as part of internal conflict in the Creek confederacy between largely half-blood leadership of the Lower Creeks in what today is Georgia, and more full-blood and traditional Upper Creeks.

The Red Sticks also had origins based in the influence of Tecumseh the Shawnee brother to the Prophet of the Ohio country, his half-brother Tenskwatawa (Open Door).

When the war of 1812 exploded into the Americas, the Creek reached a point of no return. Sporadic trade with the Spanish Colonial presence in Florida yielded guns, powder and ammunition to the Creeks.

The Tensaw settlement of southern Alabama also considered: the Mississippi Territory by American regional interest had a population of several thousand whites. It also included backwoods families, often from Georgia and the Carolinas, and Creole, Cajun, and several hundred half-bloods from Creek and Choctaw towns, and several hundred freed people of color and hundreds of African slaves.

As early as 1811 white leadership of the Mississippi Territory ordered organization of a regional militia in the Tensaw settlement consisting of 800-900 men. Fortification and garrisons had been built at Forts St. Stephens, Stoddert, Singenfield, Madison, Pierces and Mims. By 1813, events reached a breaking point. In late summer, war parties of several thousand Red Sticks with nearly a thousand rifles obtained in Spanish Florida, deployed to attack the Tensaw district garrison.

Leadership of the overwhelmingly full-blood Red Stick body had been ironically, half-blood, such as Menewa, Paddy Carr, Peter McQueen and Red Eagle or Bill Weatherford, half-nephew of the late quarter-blood Creek Wind Clan Chieftain Alexander MacGillivray.

Sunday, Aug. 30, 1813, warning of impending Red Stick war parties reached the forts and garrison in the Tensaw District. Multiple garrisons had been attacked and fought off the Red Sticks. Fort Mims was the one fortification that was overwhelmed by a large force of 700-800 Red Sticks, which were nominally lead by Red Eagle.

The destruction of Fort Mims saw losses to the local American population of several hundred men, women and children, as well as several hundred militia and also heavy losses for the Red Sticks. The news of a frontier massacre resulted in the muster of 3,000-5,000 white militia in Tennessee, nominally under the command of Gen. Andrew Jackson and several others.

The aftermath of Fort Mims was the year-and-a-half long occupation and destruction of the Upper Creek towns by white American militias from surrounding states and territories. Ultimately in the defeat of the Red Stick Creek and with the military threat for the Creek broken, it left all five major southeastern tribes vulnerable to the plight of Indian Removals.

A bibliography is available upon request.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
IS NOW OFFERING:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
& SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS
OF DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

October 12, 2016 | 6:00PM-7:30PM
MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND

GROUP OVERVIEW:
Personal growth, recovery and healing are a lifelong journey. This monthly women's group offers safe paths to healing while also honoring individual and cultural integrity. The focus is on creative expression through arts/crafts and on building community with other women with similar trauma histories. The group also seeks to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence by learning about trauma with a holistic healing approach. Many survivors can be hesitant to receive individual therapy, therefore support groups that incorporate a focus on alternative holistic healing can be a doorway to beginning the healing process. Women need support to heal from trauma. Part of the process in healing from trauma is developing connection and support with others. Many women are recovering from their traumatic experiences, and this group provides a safe space to explore their thoughts and feelings at their own pace. Healing from trauma can be challenging and our hope is that through group participation it is filled with creative expression and support from women in the group and others in their life.

WHAT IT IS:
Making art or creating crafts in a variety of media including drawing, sculpting, beading, collage, basket weaving, sewing, etc.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:
Arts and crafts offer survivors the opportunity to express themselves, and relate aspects of their traumatic experience or healing process without having to use words. Additionally, arts and crafts can enhance skills of self-care, connection with others and a connection to their own body, mind, and spirit.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Family Violence Prevention Program
918.732.7979 | dcostello@mcn-nsn.gov

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• VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
• ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
• SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

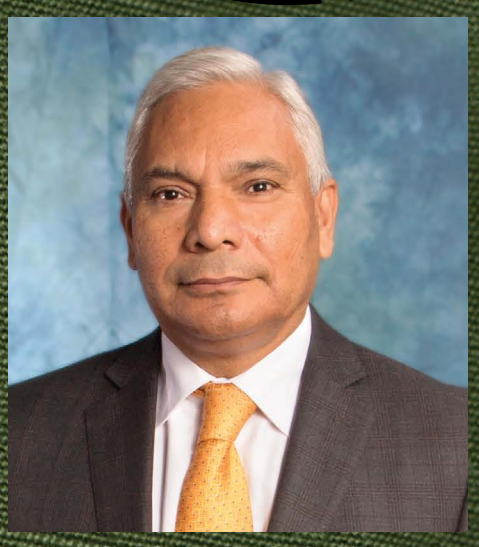
Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

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If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

*Services offered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation, or sexual orientation.

CHOW AND CHAT



Principal Chief Floyd



Second Chief Hicks

WITH THE CHIEFS

"All Hands" special invitation to celebrate Veterans Day 2016
10 November 2016
1100 – 1400
The Mvskoke Dome
located inside the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex

- Desiring to render respect & appreciation, our Chiefs invite Muscogee veterans for a day of chow and chat on our special day set aside by proclamation to honor all veterans – Veterans Day.
- "Chow and Chat" will be held inside the Mvskoke Dome at the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex.
- 10 November 2016 (Thursday)
- 1100 – 1230 – Chow
- 1230 – 1400 – Meet, greet and chat with our Chiefs, Share some quiet time with our Chiefs. Allow our Chiefs to get to know you – Muscogee veteran.
- Please wear your MCN veteran's vest.
- DUE TO EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, AND LACK OF SPACE, VETERANS ONLY PLEASE.
- Please RSVP by 1700 on 4 November 2016 (Friday) in order to get an accurate count for chow, tables and chairs.
- Please call VASO at either (918) 732-7739, or (918) 732-7745.

Harvest dinner set Oct. 8

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah United Methodist Church has set a harvest dinner for 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oct. 8.

Meals will be $8 per person.

Byrd/Harjo family reunion set Oct. 29

TULSA, Okla. — A Harjo/Byrd family reunion has been set for 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oct. 29 at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132.

Bring a covered dish, paper plates and cups. A prize will be given for those who bring Sofkee. Attendees are encouraged to bring crafts for purchase and old pictures. There will be prize drawings.

For more information call: 918-629-2914.

Benefit bingo event set for Oct. 29

DEWAR, Okla. — A benefit bingo event has been set for the medical expenses of Renee Riley Oct. 29 at the Dewar Indian Community Center in Dewar.

The food sale begins at 12 p.m. and bingo will start at 2 p.m.

Family potluck dinner set for Nov. 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A Franks and Fixco memorial family potluck dinner has been set 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Nov. 5 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

Meat dishes will be provided. There will be a drawing for gifts and attendees are encouraged to bring an item to give to the winners. There will also be a Seminole/Creek language word game.

For more information call Susie Wind at: 405-712-9983.



Child Support Office to host training conference

MCN CSE/Release

NORMAN, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Support Enforcement will host the second annual Oklahoma Tribal Child Support Association Training Conference Oct. 27-28 in Norman at the Riverwind Casino and Hotel.

Tribal child support programs from across the state will be in attendance for the two-day event and annual meeting.

Several workshops are being planned on the following topics: parenting, state and tribal relationships, child support legal issues and a presentation by the MCN Reintegration Program.

The MCN Lighthorse Explorers Post 106 Color Guard will help with the opening ceremony as well as 2016 Miss MCN Brittany McKane and Jr. Miss Madeline Lamb.

MVTO

BOYNTON, Okla. — Chief Floyd: I want to thank you for the time that you took from your busy schedule Aug. 20 to meet with some of the pastors and myself. I felt we were able to not only discuss some issues but also possibly resolve some of them.

In our travels evangelizing to many of our churches, Melodie and I have observed issues such as bathrooms needing repairs, plumbing and waterline issues, driveways in need of repairs, many of our fellowship halls lacking heating and air conditioning, many of the halls themselves needing repairs, roofs needing repairs or replacement and overall churches needing repairs and items such as lawnmowers...just to mention a few issues.

I want to add that several times, I have observed or been told that the churches only have the use of push mowers that belong to the congregation to mow their huge lawns. And, many times the elder pastors/ministers or congregation members are out in the heat trying to get the church lawn cut for fourth Sundays.

Thus, I appreciate your afterthoughts on this particular issue and the discussion we had after the meeting.

I don't have the space in this letter to cover all the items we discussed. But I do want to again, on the behalf of the pastors and representatives that were able to attend…thank you for not only being responsive to us and our needs; but also, concerned enough to meet with us to discuss these issues.

And, I look forward to a continued discussion and resolution of these issues. One of the purposes of this meeting was to develop a stronger working relationship with the administration of our great Muscogee Nation and the churches. As I mentioned to you before, we are not looking for a handout for our churches, just a helping hand from time to time.

To which, I want to add… that your pledge of having an open door policy to your constituents is not just one of words, but of truth and action. Thank you Chief Floyd.

In closing, I think I can speak for all of us that were in attendance, when I say, "Call us when and if we can be of help to you."

But, knowing that God is always there for you. God Bless you and guide you, Chief Floyd. We thank you so much for your support and what you've done for the glory of God. And God bless you and yours!

- Grover Wind,
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Native Bible study offered by mail

Discovery Bible School is offering a free 30-lesson Bible study by and for Native Americans called Native New Day. They are sent by mail and those who are interested may contact us at PO Box 14208, Tulsa, OK 74159.

Letter to the editor

Brenda Golden
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

OKMULGEE, Okla. — My citizenship of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of pride and loyalty. Most citizens do not seek a handout, we are not looking for our Nation to give us anything for free. But a government's right to rule comes from a "social contract" with the people, who trade some of their independence for protection and other services. We look to our Nation for protection thru tribal laws and the legal system. As with most any citizen, we expect our governments to take action to promote national prosperity and quality of life. At the minimum, this might just mean refereeing the system to ensure fairness and competition, but it can also involve protecting local businesses, creating jobs, or other measures to actively stabilize and grow the economy. Governments are almost always expected to provide basic services to their citizens, such as building roads and fighting fires, but they sometimes offer much more. To ensure basic well-being for their citizens, many governments provide assistance such as food, housing and medical care to those in need.

It is my belief at MCN, violations of the Mvskoke Constitution have taken place in the appointment of commissioned officers, tribal code has been ignored in the hiring of non Indians and non-Creeks over tribal citizens, hundreds of employees have been fired or discharged, many of them tribal citizens, nepotism has ruled the day when friends and cronies of those in power are appointed and they are unqualified, inexperienced and uneducated, and services and programs to the people are being cut severely while this Administration is turning some programs back over to the BIA to run weakening our tribal sovereignty.

When is enough, enough my Mvskoke friends? How long will you and I let this Administration run our Nation into the ground? Stand up for our rights as citizens of the Nation. I am a lone voice in the wilderness without you!! They have labeled me a disgruntled ex-employee with an axe to grind thereby dismissing anything I say or do, which is not true. I am a full citizen of this Nation, I love my people and I love our Nation, as such I am deeply concerned and hope you are too. We deserve better and we won't get it unless we speak up and speak out, I am ready, are you?

Mvto!

MVTO

KOWETA, Okla. — I was pleasantly surprised with a birthday dinner Sept. 5. We hosted and fed over 120 people at the Koweta Creek Community Center and had enough food to feed 100 more. I want to say a heartfelt Mvto to my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, my sister, numerous nieces and nephews and cousins. We had family come from all over including: Florida, California, Albuquerque and as far as Cromwell and Wetumka.

So happy to see my Mom's people, the Marshalls...Famous, Rosie and Edwin. My dad's people, the Perrymans, David Farthing, Helen and Eva and my church family including the McHenrys and BT Tyner. God has truly blessed me by surrounding me with great people. I love you all and appreciate all your efforts. Mvto!

- Gertie Tiger-Noble,
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Weleetka sets community meetings

WELEETKA, Okla. — The Weleetka Indian Community has set their monthly meetings for 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the Weleetka Indian Community, 602 South Chickasaw Ave., Weleeka, OK 74880.

For more information call: 405-786-2477.

PAMELA ACTON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Pamela Jean 'Pam' Acton was born Jan. 2, 1932 in Okmulgee to the late Frank and Velma (Betts) Coker. She passed away the morning of Sept. 17, 2016 at her home in Okmulgee, surrounded by her loving family. Pam married James Kenneth Acton Jan. 23, 1952. She worked as an operator for Southwestern Bell until her retirement. Pam enjoyed going for walks, shopping, reading and most of all, cooking for and spending time with her family. Pam was a devoted member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Okmulgee.

Pam is preceded in death by her: parents; husband, James Kenneth Acton; sons, Kenny and Kurt Acton; uncle and aunt, Colonel John and Geneva Hillman; cousin, John Hillman and grandmother. Hattie Lasley.

Left to cherish Pam's memory are: daughters, Diana Peeler of Okmulgee, Denise Stanley and husband, Johnny of Okmulgee, Jennifer Buchanan and husband, Alan of Okmulgee and Jacqualine White and fiancé, Kevin Abrams of Schulter; daughter-in-law, Jeanne Acton; cousins, Heather Easley and husband, John and Stephanie Jameson and husband, Trey; grandchildren, Jonathon, Jessica, Amy Sue, Nicole, Christopher, Kyle, Matthew, Josh and Lucas; 13 great-grandchildren; honorary son, Ricky Streight as well as her loving pets, Izzie and Cha Cha.

A Funeral Mass for Pam was held Sept. 21 at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Father Joshua E. Litwack officiating. Interment followed at Okmulgee Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were: Christopher Clayton, Kyle Acton, Josh Byassee, Lucas Stanley, Brian Thomason and Marshal King. Honorary pallbearers were: Ricky Streight, Matthew Clayton and Jonathon Stanley. Arrangements were entrusted to McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

ELIZABETH DENNISON



SAPULPA, Okla. — Elizabeth Denise Dennison, 50, of Sapulpa went to be with our Lord Sept. 12, 2016. Elizabeth Denise was born Aug. 2, 1966 at Claremore Indian Hospital in Claremore to David and Sally (Rolland) Dennison Sr.

Elizabeth Denise attended Kellyville Public School System and graduated with the Class of 1984. She lettered in softball, volleyball and basketball. She attended Wright Career College and earned two associate degrees in the medical clerical field. Elizabeth Denise worked at LE Raider Institution, Tulsa Community College and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Hospital.

Elizabeth Denise was a lifelong member of the Native American Church-Yuchi Chapter and Polecat (Kellyville) Ceremonial Ground. Her hobbies included traveling, stompdancing and casino hopping.

Elizabeth Denise is preceded in death by her: mother, Sally Elizabeth (Rolland) Dennison; sister, Tina Louise Dennison; maternal grandparents, Albert and Nancy (Watashe) Rolland and paternal grandparents, George and Josephine Dennison.

Elizabeth Denise is survived by her: companion, Tony Fixico of Seminole; father, David Lewis Dennison, Sr. of the home; son, Jason Nathanial Dennison; daughter, Chelsea Elizabeth Dennison and granddaughter, Lindsey Ellen Dennison, all of the home; daughter, Mindy Oske and Sean Rigney of Shawnee; brother and family, David and Daniele Dennison Jr. and Lindsey Nicole of Sapulpa; Alex, Fallon, Kristin

and Kolton Dennison of Okmulgee; sister and husband, Dawn and Anthony (Tony) DeVorse of Tulsa; sister, Jessica "Bunny" Dennison-Frazier of Sapulpa; sisters, Marquetta Dennison and Robert Jones, of Sapulpa, Tamara and Philip Wilson of Sapulpa, Mardee and Tony DeSantis of Columbus, Ohio and Sarah and Tony Perez of Fletcher; aunts, Eleanor Largo and Evonne Rogers, of Naschitti, N.M, Emma along with Amos Tony, of Tohatchi, N.M., Margaret (Rolland) Longhorn of Sapulpa and Carolyn (Rolland) along with Charles Turk of Santa Ana, Calif.; uncles, James "Mike" Rolland along with Joanna Lowe of Glenpool and Robert along with Jacqueline Rolland of Sapulpa as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth Denise's family headquartered at the Rolland Home Place. Services were led by her brother David Lewis Dennison, Jr. Wake service was Sept. 14 at Smith Funeral Home Chapel followed with a fellowship dinner at the Rolland Home Place. Funeral service was Sept. 15 at Smith Funeral Home Chapel followed with burial at Watashe Family Cemetery and returned to the Rolland Home Place. Funeral was under the direction of Smith Funeral Home.

The family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude for all the thoughts, prayers, time and donations that have been given on behalf of our sister Elizabeth Denise.

BERNADETTE FAURIE

SANTA CRUZ, Okla. — Bernadette Carol Faurie, age 63, passed away Aug. 24, 2016, at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz.

Bernadette was born April 9, 1953 in Watsonville to William Louis DeWorken Sr. and Nellie Mable Combs DeWorken.

She attended Marello Preparatory High School, Cabrillo College and worked as a district manager for 'The Register-Pajaronian' in Watsonville before assisting with the care of her mother.

Bernadette was very dedicated to her family and enjoyed learning about the genealogy of her ancestors. She loved music and was an avid fan of The Grateful Dead.

Preceding Bernadette in death, were her: parents and brothers, William Louis DeWorken Jr. and David Eugene DeWorken.

She is survived by her: son, Aaron Faurie; daughter, Rhiannon Faurie, both of Soquel; sister, Dorothy DeWorken Knauss of Watsonville and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pumet Svnokeckv Cen Kerres Bernadette.

Mehl's Colonial Chapel in Watsonville was entrusted with cremation arrangements.

WILLIE RANDALL



TULSA, Okla. — Willie Charley Randall was born Jan. 10, 1931 in Henryetta to Timmie and Rosie (West) Randall. He passed away Aug. 26, 2016 in Tulsa on Friday evening.

Willie served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He later worked in shipping and receiving for Sears until his retirement. He enjoyed watching

Thunder basketball, University of Oklahoma football and Dancing with the Stars. He served as pastor of Grave Creek Church until 2013 and was acting deacon until that time.

There, he served the Lord faithfully until his health started to fail him.

Willie is preceded in death by his: parents, Timmie and Rosie Randall, sons Nelson Randall and Donnie Randall and wife Vena Mae Sampson Randall.

Left to cherish his memory are his: son, Ronnie Randall and wife of Watson; daughter, Wilma Randall of Florida; granddaughters, Regina Randall of Tahlequah and Stephanie Campbell of Lonoke, Ark., grandson, Jeremy Randall of

Lonoke, Ark.; stepdaughters, Sharon Whitecloud of Okmulgee, Pam Palmer of Okmulgee, Peggy Powell of Preston and Anita Sue Powell of Preston; stepsons, Rusty Powell of Preston and Rick Powell of Okmulgee along with a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service for Willie was held on Aug. 31 at Grave Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Tim Lowe and Rev. Norman Daniel officiating.

Interment followed at the Randall Family Cemetery in Henryetta. A wake service was held at Grave Creek Baptist Church on Aug. 30. Arrangements have been entrusted to McCiendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

MVTO

We would like to thank each and everyone for the flowers sent, cards, food, prayers and words of encouragement to the Family of Willie C Randall.

A special thanks to Koko Lowe, Rosanna Bear and all those who prepared food. Also the CN Honor Guard, Thloplocco Tribal Town, and many others who assisted us in our time of sorrow. Most of all, Mvto to our sister churches for the beautiful singing at the wake.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to the fiscal year end, we had to commit to eight pages before a substantial amount of submitted content was turned in for publication.

All content can be viewed at: www.mvskokemedia.com.

Offensive float disassembled

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

COWETA, Okla. — Coweta Public Schools issued an apology Sept. 16 for an offensive homecoming float.

The homecoming float had the words "Scalp the Indians."

That night images of the float surfaced on various social media platforms.

Coweta Public Schools Superintendent Jeff Holmes wrote a letter of apology.

"I offer my most sincere apology to all who were offended and want to assure you that we will use this situation to educate our students regarding the importance of respecting all cultures," Holmes said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd expressed his disappointment.

"I expressed my feelings of how KOWETA is my tribal town and how disappointing it was..." he said.

Holmes said that the float has been disassembled.

14TH ANNUAL
PINK PARTY


Minnie Proctor
Guest Speaker




LeAnne Taylor
Guest Speaker

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
1 PM - 4PM
Registration Begins at Noon
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Dome
(Located directly behind the MCN Travel Plaza
at the Intersection of HWY 75 and HWY Loop 56)
For More Information: (918) 732-7617 or Email ggouge@mcn-nsn.gov

Breast Cancer Survivor Only
Registration & Luncheon - 11AM
RSVP Robyn Yearby at:
(918) 756-0310 ext. 258 or robyn.yearby@creekhealth.org

GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.
MVSKOKEMEDIA
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MVSKOKE TOURISM & RECREATION AWEPVKSI
MUSCOGEE NATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISHED 1976

Winner of the OK SPJ, Carter Bradley First Amendment & the NAJA, Elias Boudinot Free Press Awards

Oct. 15, 2016 "Otowoskvrakko" Big Chestnut Month

Vol. 46, Issue 21

Mvskoke Media conducts phone survey of Nation's programs — Page 14

Muscogee (Creek) citizen retires as barber — Page 17



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Council approves new loan for reported health deficit, construction

Floyd says loan agreement eliminates balloon payments

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved two pieces of legislation during an emergency session Sept. 20 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

TR 16-154 authorizes a loan management account with Bank of America of up to $90 million, and pledges the permanent fund as collateral.

The legislation states MCN has held this line of credit account since 2008, and utilized it for construction of River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

It also states the loan will be used to address the MCN Department of Health deficit and construction costs related to its facilities.

TR 16-155 amends the loan agreement with Bank of Oklahoma for the Okemah and Eufaula health facility projects.

It does this by acknowledging the expiration of funding for the Eufaula health clinic project, allowing the Nation to obtain a loan from Bank of America and extending the completion and outside funding date of the Okemah hospital project to June 30, 2017.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said the Bank of America loan will cover the reported health operations deficit so that MCNDH will start fiscal year 2017 with a balanced budget.

Floyd said this is not an additional loan to the one approved in February to fix the reported health deficit, but a replacement.

Floyd said the legislation repeals TR 16-045 that was passed earlier this year and allowed the Nation to apply

Loan ~ 8

TERO repeal legislation postponed during Council session

Grant expenditures approved for Reintegration Program

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held Sept. 26 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 16-141 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant originally awarded to Thlopthlocco Tribal Town (TTT) and enter into a butterfly farm project grant partnership agreement with Jane Breckinridge for the benefit of Morris Indian Community (MIC). Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Grant project director, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jane Breckinridge was originally awarded the grant to

Council ~ 7



Deviney Luchsinger/MNN

Layoffs of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health employees were announced Sept. 30 as part of a restructuring effort to address the reported MCNDH budget deficit. Inpatient services at the MCN Rehabilitation Center will be transferred to the MCN Medical Center, both of which are in Okmulgee, Okla.

Health department conducts employee layoffs

Health loan to be used to cover past-due bills

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health initiated employee layoffs Sept. 30, due to restructuring efforts led by the Office of the Principal Chief and approved by the MCN National Council.

"As you might recall, last week the Council approved the authority and agreements for the operations of the health care system for 2017," MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said. "The restructuring part of that is, the last steps of the restructuring is what is recurring today and there will be people, some will be transferred to other positions and unfortunately some will have to be let go."

The restructuring measures line up with the beginning of fiscal year 2017, which began Oct. 3.

Floyd said the decisions were not made in haste, but over time through analyzing data and projections.

He said the merger of human resource, finance and information technology

Layoffs ~ 2

Enhanced tribal card coming to MCN

Enhanced card serves as identification for flights

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is working on implementing an enhanced tribal card system for the Nation.

Citizenship Director Nathan Wilson and Citizenship System Administrator Jason Walls are working together to complete the process.

Their desire to implement the enhanced tribal card stems from the REAL ID Act and the amount of fraudulent activity with tribal cards.

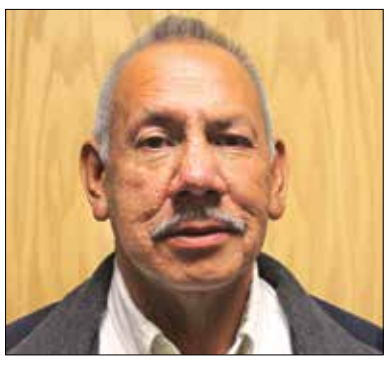
In 2005 the U.S. Congress passed the REAL ID Act. The act establishes minimum-security standards for state-issued drivers licenses and other forms of identification cards.

The REAL ID Act has four phases.

The first three phases apply to relatively few U.S. citizens, and deal with the U.S.

Card ~ 9

Former MCN employee charged with theft of tribal funds



MNN File Photo

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Director Floyd Jones has been charged with theft of tribal funds and use of tribal property for political campaign purposes. He is innocent until proven guilty.

LTPD issues warrant for Jones' arrest

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to a warrant obtained from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Director Floyd Jones has been charged with theft of tribal funds and use of tribal property for political campaign purposes.

MCN Code Annotated Title 14, Section 2-421 located on the MCN Supreme Court's website discusses theft of the Nation's funds, program income or other federal funds and states that the penalty for this crime is a felony.

MCNCA Title 37, Section 6-106 located on the MCN Supreme Court's website discusses use of tribal property for political campaign purposes and states that the penalty is a misdemeanor.

Lighthorse Tribal Police Department Investigator Anthony Wind said it is important to remember that at this time, these are charges and Jones has not been convicted of a crime in the tribal courts.

Wind said a complaint was brought to LTPD in May, and forwarded to the investigations division.

"The particular complaint stems from his time as director of Community Research and Development.

We had four main focal points of the investigation and of those four focal points we were able to file five different charges.

"As it sits right now, Mr. Jones is faced with four counts of theft of the Nation's funds, program income or federal funds, and one count of use of tribal property for political campaign purposes.

Charged ~ 5



MNN File Photo

Plans were announced Sept. 30 to move inpatient services from the MCN Rehabilitation Center to the MCN Medical Center (formerly the Okmulgee Medical Center) both in Okmulgee, as part of a restructuring effort to address the reported MCN Department of Health budget deficit.

Layoffs

Continued from page 1

functions between the health department and the MCN administration helped to save some additional jobs within MCNDH.

Floyd said he personally signed all of the termination and transfer letters that employees were given.

Floyd said the layoffs are unfortunate and due to too many operation costs.

"For about six to seven months now, the health department has been going through many options regarding our path forward and the expense that we have.

"Particularly with the expense of personnel can't be sustained with the money that we have, both with the collections that we have coming in and all sorts of revenue, and also the appropriated money from the National Council and from the Indian Health Service," he said.

Floyd said the decision wears on him and he is trying to do what is best for MCN.

"It's unfortunate. We have some very good people working for us and I think they're doing great things in providing care and support to patient care throughout the Nation," he said. "But for our system to survive, we have to make sure that we reorganize in a manner that we can be stronger in the future and this is one of probably the hardest steps to take today."

Floyd said citizens will not see a significant change in services or quality of care.

One change that will take place is the closing of inpatient services at the MCN Rehabilitation Center, and making those services available at the MCN Medical Center.

"We see savings, but unfortunately we don't need all the staff that we had to fulfill the needs of our patients," Floyd said.

MCNRC will continue to provide outpatient services.

Floyd said the top priorities for restructuring was to reduce overhead costs, which meant administrative and support positions would have to be eliminated to guarantee that facilities had providers and staff available for medical services.

He said the reorganization is taking place across the system so that one facility or program was not more significantly affected than others.

Floyd said within 12-18 months, the health department will have the opportunity to rehire these individuals when the new facilities being constructed in Okemah and Eufaula open.

"But at this point, we just don't have the means to keep everyone in place," he said.

Floyd said terminated employees will be compensated for any unused leave and 401k plan savings. He said individuals will be able to apply for unemployment.

He said the overall savings will be reapplied to help pay costs throughout the health department.

"The recent action by the National Council to allow us to enter into the letter of credit agreement is merely to catch us up on bills that some of which exceed two years. So when we have debts that have been going on for more than 24 months, we have to address them very quickly.

"And so some of that money that we are having available is just going to go repay bills that are already passed due, not to bank and save. That would be a luxury. We don't have that luxury right now," Floyd said.

Floyd said he hopes improved collections of third party revenue will help strengthen and sustain the health department in the future. He estimated collections to be at around $5 million per month.

He does not anticipate any additional layoffs within MCNDH or the Nation's other programs and services.

Floyd was unable to pinpoint what led to financial issues within the health department that resulted in the layoffs.

"I don't know all the circumstances. When I walked in the door as principal chief, I estimated we were about $28 million in the hole, as you now find out we're more than double that amount. And so there's been some surprises, and not pleasant ones.

"My job and my responsibility, and I feel my responsibility to the citizens is to be open about it. We've been transparent in reporting on a quarterly basis to our citizens in the quarterly reports and making those choices that we must make so that the system remains strong and vibrant in the future," he said.

Floyd said that the 2015 audit indicated that MCN was in a deficit. The 2016 audit showed that the debt nearly doubled.

"We knew that we had to overcome this deficit and address that so we could move forward . . . we have to make good on our debts," Floyd said.

Floyd said the Nation will balance the financials for 2017.

Two consultants have reviewed the options and advised Floyd on matters regarding the health care system.

"They looked at the data, they've spoken to accrediting and licensing agencies on our behalf, positioned us in a matter that we make the right decisions going forward and we followed their advice," Floyd said.

Floyd believes that MCNDH needed that counseling.

"The Creek Nation Health Care System is a very complex system of multiple inpatient facilities, licensed by the state of Oklahoma," he said. "In addition to federal Medicare licensure and we serve Indian and non-Indian patients . . . we are very much like a private business operation that you would see in any other system even like St. John, so you have to apply the same principles."

Floyd said MCNRC saw very few patients coming in.

"It's a good facility. There's some good staff there, they have some good potential," he said.

He believes that the center needs to be reorganized to meet the outpatient needs of physical therapy.

Floyd said that the facility has the only pool therapy center in the county and is not being utilized to its full potential.

He wants to change that.

"Recognizing those things is an important part of this overall change," he said.

Floyd said the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee will play a key part of maintaining services from the rehab center. He said that the realignment allows them to fully use that facility.

"The George Nigh Center, those inpatient requirements that are low but still can still be met at the Okmulgee facility by the change in licensure allows us to continue to serve our patients," he said.

Floyd said the MCNMC emergency room has seen an increase in activity and that they are going to focus on reorganizing the hospital.

"It is a key piece in our health care system," he said.

Floyd said it will not be cheap to rebuild the facility and remodel it. He believes the plan will save MCN money in the long run.

"Laying off people and trying to invest in the infrastructure at the same time . . . seem at conflict with each other, but they have to be done so that we can assure as we move forward that the hospital here in Okmulgee is configured in a way to meet the needs of the people," Floyd said.

Floyd said the plan that he has in place is built on expansion.

The Okemah facility will be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Construction on the Eufaula clinic is scheduled to begin in November and will open approximately 18 months later. The Eufaula clinic is being expanded from 5,000 to 170,000 square feet.

"The long range view of our health care system looks very promising," Floyd said.

Floyd said he wants citizens to know that he is responsible for the measures the health department has had to take.

"As principal chief, I have to sign off on everything. It wasn't done in haste. It was done with a lot of deliberation, a lot of input from a number of different people a number of different sources," he said.

Floyd said that the reorganization process is being done to provide quality health care for Muscogee (Creek) citizens. If any citizen has complaints or input for the future, contact Floyd at: 918-732-7601.

View the full letter issued by Council Speaker Lucian Tiger Oct. 4 about the reported MCNDH deficit at:

http://tinyurl.com/gru8v47

"The National Council and the Executive Branch are separate branches of government. The National Council legislates, appropriates and approves the annual budget of the Nation. The National Council does not make personnel decisions and is not responsible for decisions made by administration. The National Council passed the Comprehensive Annual Budget for FY 2017 knowing that it COULD impact up to 139 positions within DOH. In closing, although it was a difficult decision to make, it is our job as Representatives to do the best we can for all citizens when it comes to the finances of the Nation."

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Whitlow confirmed as housing secretary

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council confirmed Samuel Whitlow as the MCN secretary of housing with a 13-0 vote during the Aug. 27 regular session.

Whitlow, who is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, served in the compliance department within MCN Housing during Principal Chief Perry Beaver's administration.

Whitlow said though MCN has grown and added programs and services, one thing that has been consistent through his years working with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs is HUD regulations.

"Well the rules that we deal with in the HUD programs are all the same. That hasn't changed that much. But I noticed a lot of new buildings, new programs that they have here that wasn't here the last time I was here," he said.

Since he started in the position, he said he noticed some of the tribal policies have not been updated since 2005. Whitlow said he is currently reviewing policies and procedures and updating them. Whitlow said he hopes to improve the organization of the department and make sure the staff's job descriptions match the duties they carry out.

In previous Mvskoke Media coverage, questions arose regarding the use of waivers for some of the housing program requirements.

Whitlow commented on the use of waivers.

"Well the time I was in here, we never did do any waivers during my time because I was in compliance and back then, Chief Beaver was in office at that time and he kind of allowed us to research all the information that we had and like HUD programs, regulations, plus tribal regulations," he said. "We'd inform him what needed to be done and he'd go ahead and just follow our direction."

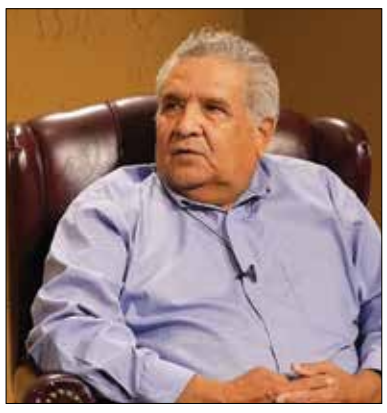
He also said the department will report to HUD quarterly.

"Everything we do, we have to report to them and need to make sure that we're in compliance with their requirements because it is their funding that we use and we're required to follow whatever requirements that they have," Whitlow said.

He said there are a little over 400 people on the waiting list for MCN housing programs.

Whitlow estimates that the department can provide 40-50 houses per year.

"As far as the 50 units a year, I don't know that we can do any more than that because all the funding that we have, it is from HUD," he said. "The tribe does not put in to any type of funds to increase the amount of funds that we need to even develop more units. So I don't know if we'll ever get to that point to where we can eliminate that waiting list."



'Native News Today'
Samuel Whitlow was confimred Aug. 27 as Muscogee (Creek) Nation secretary of housing.

The U.S. Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development audited the MCN Housing Program and released their findings July 8. The report, which reviews years 2013-2015, is available online at: http://tinyurl.com/zwrh86f.

The report identifies deficiencies totaling $219,839 in questionable expenditures.

According to a statement from HUD, they will issue a decision within 120 days of the audit that details the corrections that must be made to the program.

The statement also said that HUD works with audited parties to gather documentation and review the report, and that HUD can make its own recommendations.

In previous MM coverage, Principal Chief James Floyd said MCN was working to update policies and procedures and that Housing had addressed all but one of the audit items.

Whitlow said he was unable to give an update on the audit findings, and changes and repayment of funds that might result from them.

"I really couldn't address that right now because we did respond to their findings and we're waiting on them to respond back to us to tell us exactly what the amounts were," he said.

Whitlow said he was unable to speak to some recent allegations and a lawsuit brought by a Muscogee (Creek) citizen against the department, Floyd and former Acting Secretary of Housing Alvin Bucktrot.

"Well, I'm not too familiar with the issues you're talking about, but I know we've had some issues where they're saying that we don't come back and maintain the units, that we provided them.

"But again, when they come into the program they sign an agreement saying they're going to maintain those units and that's the agreement they signed," Whitlow said. "And a lot of those tenants aren't doing that and then they're blaming the tribe for not doing that, but HUD says they're supposed to be responsible for it."

Whitlow said he hopes clients see him as fair.

"And I think that's the biggest complaint we hear, concerns that they weren't treated fair," he said. "And so far I've had an open door policy, which I always have."

Whitlow said some days he skips lunch to hear concerns, and that the only way he can learn about issues is to speak to people.

Roe confirmed as MCN controller



'Native News Today'
Linda Roe was confirmed Aug. 27 as Muscogee (Creek) Nation controller.

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Controller Linda Roe was nominated by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd and confirmed Aug. 27 by the National Council through TR 16-132, which passed 13-0.

Roe said she has held a Certified Public Accountant license since 1986, and is a certified fraud examiner.

Her prior financial experience is with the Oklahoma Office of Finance, University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

Roe said she and her husband moved to Okmulgee in 2008 and own Charlie's Country Store in Wilson.

She said she believes she was asked by Floyd to fill the controller position because of her knowledge and expertise in establishing internal financial controls and creating reports.

"Independence in accounting is always a very important thing and I think that's one thing that I've brought into this office," Roe said.

Roe said though she is non-Native, she brings an independent perspective to the Nation's financial system.

"In the controller position, I think what they were looking for was somebody that could not only be objective, but also that had the credentials, the CPA license," she said. "I know I had some cabinet members approach me and say that they were glad that I wasn't a citizen…"

Roe said that she believes the duties of the controller include:

Generating financial reports, maintaining accounting records, establishing controls to mitigate risk, verifying the accuracy of financial reports and departments turn in and making sure reports the Office of Finance prepares are transparent and understandable.

Roe's interview with the National Council was held in executive session, unlike some of the other cabinet members interviews Roe said she was asked questions on her experience and ability to handle difficult decisions.

She said representatives gave her hypothetical situations to analyze what decisions she would make if seated as controller.

"We want to be good stewards of all of our resources," Roe said. "As the person in charge of that, I want to make sure that that person can be independent, can make the hard decisions and knows right from wrong and can uphold it."

Roe called her pre-existing knowledge of the Nation's financial situation, "short-lived."

"I didn't really delve into it until I started the interview process… and then I did read some of the audit findings that are out online," she said.

Roe said she believes any audit findings give you the opportunity to make things better.

For the past two weeks she has been in the controller position, Roe said she has been learning the new financial system and has been focused on closing out the books for the end of the fiscal year and the merger of the finance departments between MCN and the MCN Department of Health.

She said the merger has gone well so far.

"I'm very excited that we're going to be saving so much money by cutting out all of these duplicate processes," Roe said.

Roe estimated the Nation would save over "hundreds of thousands of dollars" a year by the merger.

She also said she is a proponent of monthly reporting.

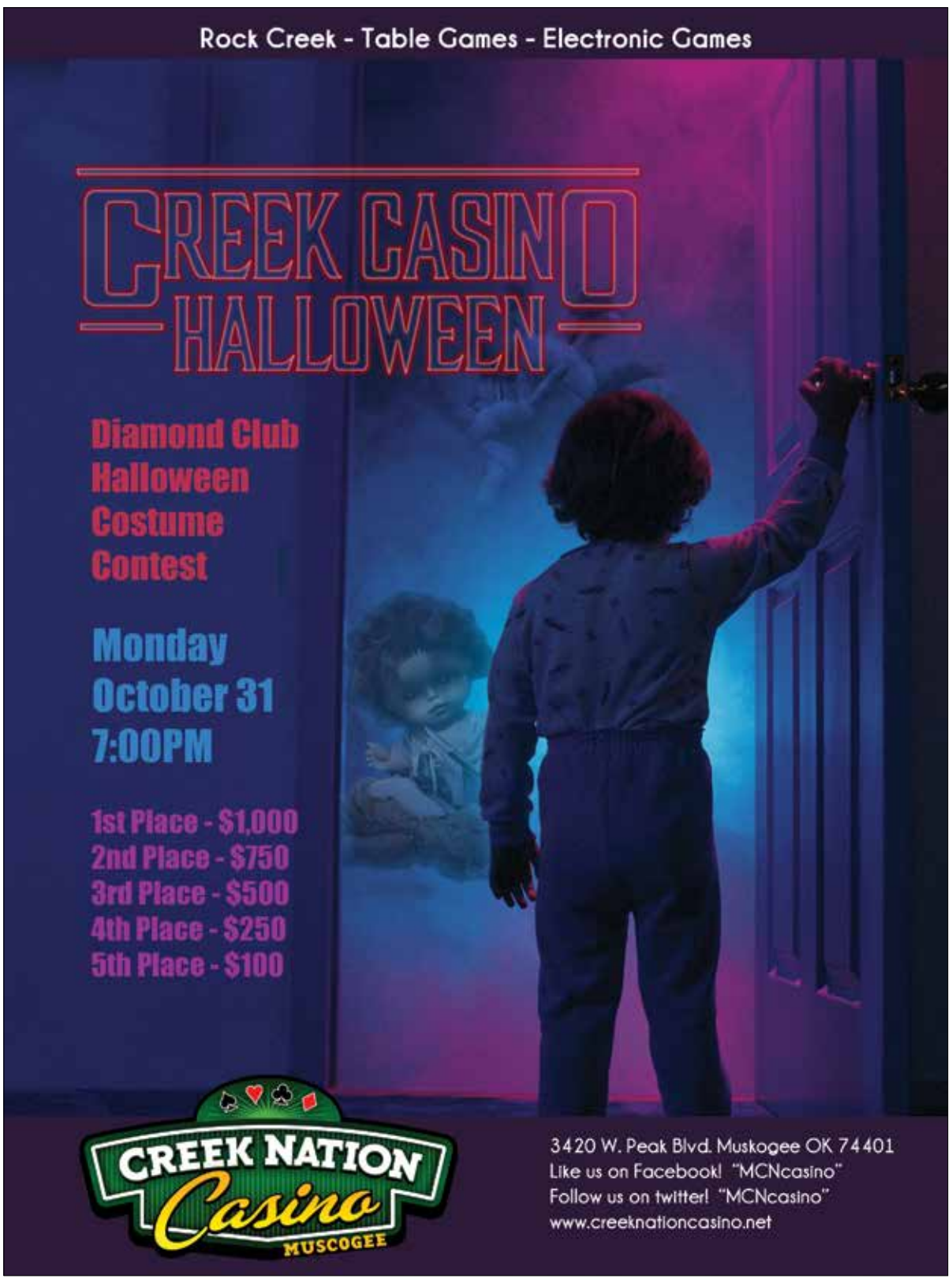
"I think that if you are going to share financial information, you need to do it on a monthly basis," she said. "And that's one thing that I know Chief Floyd and I have talked about and he's all in favor of it also."

Roe said her goal is to implement monthly financial reporting for the Nation's departments and programs by Oct. 31.

"We want to be very transparent. We want everybody to know where exactly they stand at any time," she said.

Roe's understanding is that the Nation currently completes financial reports on a quarterly basis.

She hopes to help make financial reports available to citizens so that the Nation's shareholders know the financial standing along with an explanation.



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know...

Oklahoma currently ranks 4th in the Nation for the number of women murdered by men. In 2014, 38 women were murdered by men in Oklahoma. Of the 38 victims, 18 were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. 2 of the victims were American Indian or Alaskan Native.

In a 2008 CDC study, 39% of Native women surveyed identified as victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, a rate higher than any other race or ethnicity surveyed.

Native American victims of intimate and family violence are more likely than victims of all other races to be injured and need hospital care.

Leaving an abusive relationship can be the most dangerous time for victims since perpetrators may perceive a loss of control and often take drastic and very dangerous steps to retain it.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.

CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
- ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
- CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
- ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
- VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
- ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)

Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...

AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGMENT.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.

*Services offered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation, or sexual orientation.

EVALUATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP:

IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP HEALTHY? ASK YOURSELF
- Do I feel respected, cared for and nurtured by my partner?
- Is my partner willing to communicate when there are problems?
- Does my partner give me space to be with friends and family?

If you answered YES to these questions, it is likely that you are in a healthy relationship. Studies show that this kind of relationship leads to better physical and mental health, longer life and better outcomes for your children.

IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP UNSAFE OR DISRESPECTFUL? ASK YOURSELF
- Does my partner shame or humiliate me?
- Does my partner tell me what to do, where I can go, who I can talk to and how I spend my money?
- Does my partner threaten me, hurt me, or make me feel afraid?
- Does my partner make me do sexual things I don't want to do?

Answering yes to any of these questions would indicate an abusive and unhealthy relationship. Please consider reaching out to speak to an Advocate to gain support for addressing your safety needs. You do not deserve to be hurt.

A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP IS ONE IN WHICH YOU FEEL SAFE, SUPPORTED, PROTECTED AND RESPECTED.

SAVE THE DATE

Family Violence Prevention Program

"Justice for Abused Women and their Children"

November 15th 9-12pm & 1-4pm, Green Country, Okmulgee Ok.

November 16th 9-12pm & 1-4pm, Eufaula Indian Community, Eufaula Ok.

November 17th 9-12pm only, Wes Watkins, Wetumka Ok.

Training is geared toward professionals working with victims/survivors of domestic violence.
The first 30 participants for each session will receive a free t-shirt (size available while supplies last).

For more information contact Tania Bardin at 918-732-7979

or email tbardin@mcn-nsn.gov

LOVE IS RESPECT!

Featuring National Expert Lundy Bancroft



SAVE THE DATE

WARRIORS HONOR WOMEN CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

OKMULGEE, OK 74447

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Curtis Brungardt

- *Coaching Boys Into Men Trainer*
- *Founder of Jana's Campaign:*

"EDUCATION about and PREVENTION against gender and relationship violence."

To register or for more information, contact: Monte Randall:

(918) 549-2806 or mrandall@mcn-nsn.gov

Hawkins approved as Lighthorse chief

Police chief discusses use of force, MOUs, updates

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator



'Native News Today'
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Robert Hawkins was confirmed Aug. 27 as Lighthorse Tribal Police Department chief.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council unanimously confirmed Muscogee (Creek) citizen Robert Hawkins Aug. 27 as the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department chief through TR 16-133.

Hawkins said he has almost 20 years of law enforcement experience, six as chief of police in western Oklahoma. He moved to the Tulsa area in 2011.

"My goals and aspirations in law enforcement have taken me many places," he said. "I've seen, visited with a lot of great people, a lot of great dignitaries and just basically serving and protecting the people of the communities that I worked for."

He said that it means more to him now that he is serving his own Nation as a citizen.

Hawkins said there are challenges as police chief.

"I think the big challenge there is your credibility, having the respect of your officers, showing them that you work for them," he said. "How I see it, my officers, they don't work for me, I work for them."

Hawkins said he will also guide his department in light of recent events such as officer-involved shootings and active shooter situations across the U.S.

"… we have met on several occasions on it. And one thing that I tell my officers is that you have to be vigilant," he said. "You have to pay attention to what's going on around you at all times."

Hawkins discussed the use of deadly force and said that while the department tries to be prepared in these instances, it is difficult to prepare for everything.

"You're never prepared for a shooting incident. You just hate to see that happen," he said. "Using deadly force is an absolute last resort. We use the necessary force to stop a threat. Unfortunately in cases it does resort to deadly force."

Hawkins said if the use of deadly force occurs, LTPD provides counseling for officers involved.

On Sept. 22, 2015, the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office canceled their memorandum of understanding for a cross-jurisdictional relationship between the office and LTPD.

Okmulgee County Sheriff Eddy Rice said at the time that his department was not being made aware of Lighthorse activity under the county's authority, which was a liability for OCSO.

Hawkins said recent meetings with OCSO have made progress towards reinstating the memorandum of understanding between the agencies.

He estimated LTPD currently has cross-deputization agreements with 15 county and municipal agencies.

Hawkins spoke about LTPD units.

"My canine unit I can speak real highly of. We are, I know in the past we have kind of lacked being able to utilize our canine unit the way we would like to," he said. "Now we are being asked by schools, the colleges and in fact some areas outside of our tribal jurisdiction, we've been asked to come in and utilize our dogs on drug sweeps through the schools."

He said the LTPD dive team has also been requested for assistance in other areas of Oklahoma.

Hawkins said the department is restarting their tactical unit for incidents such as hostage situations, and expressed pride in the MCN Lighthorse Explorers Program.

"We have a lot of things in line, in order coming up in the future and we're just going to keep moving forward with it," he said.

Since January, Hawkins said LTPD has restructured subdepartments and leadership to make sure individuals are in place to move the department forward.

He commented on pending MCN legislation that would create a northern division for LTPD and allow the hiring of 12 new officers in order to patrol the Margaritaville Casino and River Spirit Casino and Resort in Tulsa.

"As y'all know, the number of people have drastically increased up there and so the crime is on the increase," Hawkins said. "So we want to be able to have the power up there that's going to protect that to the best of our ability and as well as, we just want them to feel safe and know that our presence is there and they're well protected."

Hawkins said his goal is to be a proactive department and provide the best protection for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and members of the community.

"We're not just a security force. We are a full-fledged police department that has full police powers just like any municipal, county or state agency," he said. "So it's important that they understand that we're there for them and that whatever they need, we are going to do whatever we need to do to assist and help."

Hawkins said LTPD will also begin publishing a crime report in the 'Muscogee Nation News' to show transparency and productivity witcitizens.

Lighthorse investigates mail theft



Honey Caranzo/MNN
The mailbox outside the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Solomon McCombs Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Hawkins gives update on mail theft

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Earlier this month, the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department requested that Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees use the post office box inside the MCN building, instead of the blue boxes located on the complex.

LTPD Chief Robert Hawkins said that someone attempted to cash a fake MCN check at an Osage Nation Casino.

Hawkins said even though the check had an account number and routing number the check was not cashed. He said the check had a fake name.

"We believe that this is part of a another operation that has been going on criminal operation with these types of checks being fraudulently done and trying to be cashed in casino's and other areas," Hawkins said.

They are working with the U.S. Postal Service and with other federal agencies.

"We believe that the original check was possibly stolen from out of the mail maybe possibly through a drop box or out of the mail itself," Hawkins said.

He said LTPD is taking precautionary measures.

"So as a precautionary effort what we did was contact the tribe and let them know that hey, instead of placing the stuff in the drop boxes to go ahead and just bring the mail in and turn it in that way," Hawkins said.

Hawkins suggests that if any citizen or employee has important letters or documents to keep an eye out on when it will be delivered.

He said it is still an ongoing investigation and it may take a little more time to solve the case.

"We are having to work different jurisdictions with this we don't know if it was taken from our jurisdiction here or if it was outside jurisdiction. Once we get more information on it we will keep everyone updated," Hawkins said.

If any citizen or employee notices any suspicious activity they can contact the LTPD at: 918-732-7800.

CHARGED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He used some of the tribe's property in events pertaining to George Tiger's campaign," he said.

Floyd previously ran in the MCN second chief special election to replace former MCN Second Chief Roger Barnett.

Wind said LTPD made contact with Jones' former attorney Brenda Golden so that he could turn himself in when the warrant was issued.

"Well, the warrant came down and she called to let him know, 'hey, it's time to turn yourself in,' and he wasn't interested in doing that," he said. "And based on the information that I've got, he told her at that time her services were no longer needed and we still don't know of his whereabouts."

Wind said LTPD plans to enter Jones' information into the National Crime Information Center database.

The database allows other law enforcement agencies to view warrants issued when they run an individuals information and help bring them into custody.

"This is a matter that we certainly need to get resolved," Wind said.

Wind said this is around the fifth case that LTPD has looked into regarding theft of tribal funds.

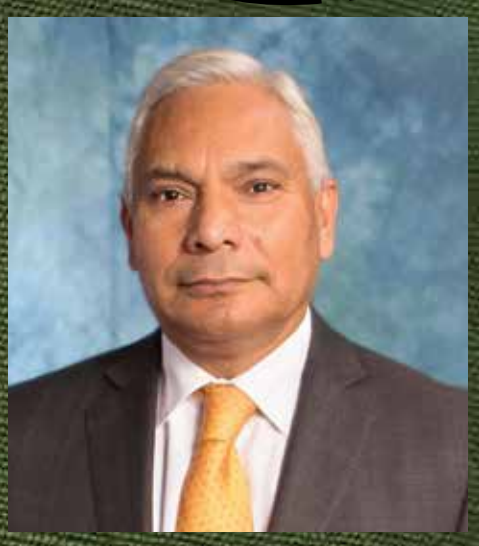
"This is the kind of thing that we are adamantly pursuing," he said. "When there's an accusation of theft of the Nation's funds, then you bet that our investigations division is certainly going to really look into those matters."

Wind said he wants citizens to know that individuals will be held accountable for stealing from the Nation.

To report information regarding this case, contact LTPD at any time, day or night at: 918-732-7800 and ask for Investigator Anthony Wind.

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*Services offered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation, or sexual orientation.
GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.

CHOW AND CHAT



Principal Chief Floyd



Second Chief Hicks

WITH THE CHIEFS

"All Hands" special invitation to celebrate Veterans Day 2016
10 November 2016
1100 – 1400
The Mvskoke Dome
located inside the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex

- Desiring to render respect & appreciation, our Chiefs invite Muscogee veterans for a day of chow and chat on our special day set aside by proclamation to honor all veterans – Veterans Day.
- "Chow and Chat" will be held inside the Mvskoke Dome at the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex.
- 10 November 2016 (Thursday)
- 1100 – 1230 – Chow
- 1230 – 1400 – Meet, greet and chat with our Chiefs, Share some quiet time with our Chiefs. Allow our Chiefs to get to know you – Muscogee veteran.
- Please wear your MCN veteran's vest.
- **DUE TO EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, AND LACK OF SPACE, VETERANS ONLY PLEASE.**
- Please RSVP by 1700 on 4 November 2016 (Friday) in order to get an accurate count for chow, tables and chairs.
- Please call VASO at either (918) 732-7739, or (918) 732-7745.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

administer it with TTT.

According to the legislation, TTT's new leadership does not wish to move forward with the project and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has agreed to allow transferring the grant to MIC.

This legislation would give MCN approval to do so.

View 'Muscogee Nation News' ('MNN') coverage of the 2014 grant on page one of the Sept. 1, 2014 edition: http://tinyurl.com/z279zc9.

TR 16-142 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a collaborative agreement on behalf of the MCN Child Care Program. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Office of Child Care wishes to enter into an agreement with the University of Oklahoma Outreach/ College of Continuing Education Center for Early Childhood Education and Development to collaborate on providing training to MCN child care professionals.

TR 16-143 Recognizing the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Coalition. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Council passed previous legislation recognizing the MCN Community Partnership Board, which has evolved into the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Coalition (TCYC) and this legislation would recognize them as TCYC.

According to the MCN website, the TCYC mission statement is, 'To increase child wellness, promote responsible parenting and ensure that children are thriving in safe, supportive and healthy environments.'

TR 16-146 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Civil Rights Division (FNS CRD). Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Women, Infants and Children Program wishes to utilize FNS CRD to establish uniform standards for handling complaints of discrimination in regards to the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

TR 16-147 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among the Indian Health Service (IHS), MCN and the town of Dustin for adequate wastewater treatment facilities for Indian-owned homes, non-Indian-owned homes and non-residential buildings within Dustin. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN and the town of Dustin wish to provide adequate wastewater service for 126 Native American homeowners, 39 non-Indian homes and 21 non-residential buildings.

IHS wishes to assist in the project by ensuring compliance with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and will promote attendance of Indian beneficiaries at necessary meetings for the project.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deemed the project eligible for federal funding assistance. Dustin will provide necessary engineering design, labor, materials, fees, equipment, testing and construction. IHS, EPA and Dustin will fund the project.

TR 16-148 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a purchase and sale agreement for reserved conservation credits related to the Okemah Hospital Project. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN needs to construct a road for access to the facility and has to cover disruption of the American burying beetle habitat by the project through purchasing these credits.

MCN will purchase the credits through Mitigation Solutions USA LLC and their website says the beetle has been deemed critically endangered.

According to www.investopedia.com, mitigation credits ensure that ecological loss due to development works are compensated so there is no net loss to the environment.

TR 16-149 Adopting a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and directing said declaration into the Mvskoke Language. Reps. David Hill, Mark Randolph, Del Beaver, Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere, Johnnie Greene, Randall Hicks, Robert Hufft, Mitch Jack, Adam Jones, Darrell Proctor, Rufus Scott, Lucian Tiger, Yahola, Barnett and Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN adopted this declaration from the United Nations to show support for the rights of international indigenous communities and those communities who face threats to their sovereignty, culture and welfare.

MCN also translated this doctrine in the Mvskoke language as an exercise in supporting the removal of legal and cultural obstacles that prevent the Mvskoke people from continuing their way of life.

TR 16-150 Authorizing the executive branch to prepare and submit grant applications to federal and state governmental agencies and private foundations for both fiscal years (FY) 2017 and 2018 and authorizing the principal chief to execute all necessary grant documents. Hicks and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This would free up the executive branch to pursue funding opportunities from state and federal entities over this period without getting Council approval for each individual instance.

TR 16-153 Authorizing the use of the Great Seal of MCN to be displayed in a biography of Turner Bear Jr. Reps. Pete Beaver, Hill, Hicks and Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Clifton Savory wishes to use the seal in this biography and approval is needed according to MCN law for any external entity to use it.

TR 16-156 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an extension agreement to the gaming industry tip compliance agreement with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to www.irs.gov, this agreement is designed for gaming industry employers to determine tip rates for various occupations in their establishments by using historical tip data.

The rates are subject to review and validation by the IRS. At least 50 percent of the tipped employees in an establishment must participate by signing a model gaming employee tip reporting agreement.

TR 16-157 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for the construction, improvement, installation and rehabilitation of domestic water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for 73 Native American owned homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN and IHS wish to construct, improve and install water supply and wastewater disposal facilities for 73 Indian-owned homes in these counties. IHS will provide labor, materials, connection fees, equipment and supplies as well as $674,690 for the project.

MCN will contribute $168,680 as well as provide easements, rights-of-way or other land interests deemed necessary for completing the project, give IHS representatives access to the lands, designate a project representative to coordinate MCN project participation and provide assistance in complying with NHPA and NAGPRA.

The funding source for NCAs 16-132, 142, 149, 150, 153, 155 and 156 is interest on the Permanent Fund.

NCA 16-123 Repealing MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA), Title 16, Chapter 9, titled, the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Act and reallocating funds within the Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for two months 10-4 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Greene, Jennings and Scott voting against the motion.

The legislation states TERO has not served the best interests of MCN and its citizens.

During the meeting, Barnett said she made the motion citing a wish to allow more time for possible fixes to or replacements of the TERO legislation so that some form of tribal law was in place mandating hiring preference for Muscogee (Creek) and Native American citizens.

One bill, NCA 16-138 sponsored by Hill was postponed for one month during the Sept. 14 Council Business, Finance and Justice (BFJ) Committee meeting on a motion from Hill who during that meeting, cited a wish to see what happened with the repeal.

MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger gave a brief summary during the BFJ meeting, of how preference would be handled under NCA 16-138, which proposes the Buy Native and Local Hire Acts.

"I think what the new law that is being proposed is going to allow that to be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

"So if that law goes into effect and passes, we will have something that is a law on the books that requires contractors to hire a certain number of Creek individuals for each job," he said.

According to NCA 16-123, legislation with the same name as NCA 16-138 was replaced by TERO in 2012.

In an interview on 'Native News Today' Barnett said she believes NCA 16-138 does not have enough teeth.

Stay tuned for more and view past Mvskoke Media coverage of TERO developments at:

www.mvskokemedia.com/breakdown-of-changes-proposed-to-native-preference-law/.

When NCA 16-123 was discussed during the Sept. 12 Council Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Committee meeting, Barnett attempted to postpone the bill indefinitely.

When that motion did not get a second, she tried to move it to the bottom of the agenda citing a wish to address another bill she proposed to fix TERO.

During the meeting Greene said the bill on the table, NCA 16-123 should be discussed. Jennings agreed saying it had already been postponed from August, was introduced by the Office of the Principal Chief and sponsored by Barnett.

Barnett's bill proposing fixes to TERO failed to get a second motion for consideration during the HEW meeting.

NCA 16-132 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Wagoner Public Schools (WPS). Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The donation is for warm-up suits, a wresting scale and time clock. WPS has 93 Muscogee (Creek) students.

NCA 16-140 Authorizing the expenditure of $29,690 from the U.S. National Parks Service for the FY 2016 Historic Preservation Fund Grant to Indian tribes, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian organizations for the MCN Reintegration Program (RiP). Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

RiP has applied for the grant and it would be used towards the their Cultural Preservation Educational Project for High-Risk Tribal Youth to hire traditional instructors and purchase equipment and supplies.

This is to promote culture with these youth and engage them with tribal role models.

NCA 16-141 Authorizing the expenditure of $348,712 from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for MCN RiP. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

RiP applied for a grant from this office and it would be used towards their Break the Chain project to fund proposed services such as assemblies, workshops and individual activities that target high-risk behaviors with educational, hands-on training to reduce juvenile crime contributing factors.

NCA 16-142 Authorizing a $9,300 special appropriation to Wetumka Public Schools. Scott sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Wetumka schools wish to purchase new football, softball and baseball uniforms.

NCA 16-143 Authorizing the expenditure of $1,658,375 awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) 'Many Paths – The Creek Nation Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment' Project. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH has been awarded this grant and wishes to use it towards enhancing their services for those with or at risk for substance abuse issues.

NCA 16-144 Authorizing the expenditure of $997,179 from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance for MCN RiP. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

RiP has applied for a grant from this entity and would use it towards their Bridges to Home program to hire personnel, purchase equipment and supplies, fund necessary travel and cover costs for consultants/contracts in order to improve current prison reintegration programs by more specifically addressing needs.

NCA 16-145 Authorizing a $5,000 appropriation in order to help the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Coalition (MTCYC) establish a yearly Estuce Fest. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The event will be for citizens with children under the age of one to offer them educational activities and information that promotes the family as well as safety and celebration of the child.

The inaugural event is planned for Nov. 3 and MTCYC hopes to hold it annually.

NCA 16-146 Amending NCA 06-009 (Authorizing a special appropriation for the Spring Celebration sponsored by the MCN Partnership Board.). Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This adds that the Partnership Board or its successor (see TR 16-143), will receive $15,000 rather than $10,000

Council - 8

Council

Continued from page 7

for the event.

The previous amount was allocated to fund the event every year starting in 2007 and the new amount would be given every year starting with 2017.

NCA 16-149 Authorizing a $10,000 donation to Wilson Public Schools. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The school is requesting the donation to help start a football program. The school has 242 students, 149 of which are Native and 88 are Muscogee (Creek).

NCA 16-150 Authorizing a $15,000 special appropriation to Twin Hills School. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Twin Hills School is requesting assistance with replacing two school buses that were stolen and burned.

The school has 359 students, of which 121 are Native and 82 are Muscogee (Creek).

NCA 15-151 Authorizing a $35,000 special appropriation to the Eufaula Indian Community (EIC) and authorizing application for a state limited liability company in order to start up and economic development venture for the community. Proctor and Jones sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month 14-0.

EIC is looking to start up a home décor product sales company and has found a space to lease in downtown Eufaula for a formal location but is also looking to have online sales.

NCA 16-153 Authorizing a $3,000 special appropriation to Peach Ceremonial Ground. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The ground hosted their Little and Big Brother (east vs. west) stickball game Oct. 1-2 for themselves and four other grounds.

The appropriation was to fund food, beverages and paper supplies for their 10 event camps at $300 each.

NCA 16-154 Amending Title 15, Subsection 4-102, titled 'MCN Cultural Center and Archives (CCA) Department Revolving Fund.' Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This amendment allows CCA to use money from the fund to purchase items to seel in their gift shop. The money from this will be put back into the fund for continuing operation of the shop.

NCA 16-155 Authorizing a $5,000 special appropriation to Arbeka Ceremonial Ground. Hill, Hicks, Hufft and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The City of Oxford Alabama has constructed their new athletic complex, Choccolocco Park while honoring NAGPRA and showing appreciation and understanding for the site's cultural heritage with Arbeka Ceremonial Ground.

The ground has been invited to attend the grand opening ceremony and requested assistance to do so.

NCA 16-156 Authorizing a $2,727.66 special appropriation to Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The church requested assistance to purchase a lawnmower and is not eligible for this type of help through the MCN traditional churches grant program.

NCA 16-157 Amending MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 10, titled 'Establishment of the MCN Athletic Commission; MCN Athletic Commission Rules for Boxing and Other Activities.' Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This would establish a revolving fund account for income earned by the commission.

NCA 16-158 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to a political candidate. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states there is a shortage of officials who represent the best interest of Native Americans.

It states the donation would go towards the re-election campaign of Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby to address this.

NCA 16-159 Authorizing a $25,000 appropriation for the tribal membership fees of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Hicks and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This is to cover the annual NCAI membership fee for MCN.

Their mission statement is to protect and enhance treaty and sovereign rights, secure our traditional laws, cultures and ways of life for our descendants, promote a common understanding of the rightful place of tribes in the family of American governments and improve the quality of life for Native communities and peoples.

NCA 16-160 Amending MCNCA Title 32, Chapter 3-101 titled 'Surplus Tribal Property; Procedures for Disposal' and 3-102A., titled 'Certification of Property as Surplus to Needs of Program; Use of Property.' Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

It adds language stating that Gaming property will be disposed in accordance with Gaming rules and policies.

It adds Gaming to the list of entities that are not subject to the approval of supervisors of programs/departments seeking land disposal and the manager of the General Services Administration.

NCA 16-162 Amending NCA 15-080 (Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Alabama and authorizing a special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related thereto.). Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

$462,332 was appropriated from interest on the Permanent Fund for this act and this amendment allows the funds to be carried forward until expended rather than retuned to the Tribal Treasury.

NCA 16-163 Amending Title 36, Subsection 4-106, titled 'Exemptions' and creating a new Chapter 9 in Title 36, titled 'Resort Fee Code.' Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNCA Title 36, Subsection 4-106 sets forth what is exempt from tribal sales tax. The amendment adds to this, sales on hotel rooms, conference rooms and convention facilities at any MCN gaming property.

It also adds a six percent resort fee on the purchase price of hotel rooms as well as conference and convention facilities at MCN gaming properties.

NCA 16-165 Repealing NCA 16-130 (Authorizing a special appropriation on behalf of Choska United Methodist Church.). Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The original legislation appropriated money to cover utility hookups for a trailer given to the church by Gaming.

The bills had already been paid and so the legislation needs to be repealed.

Jack was excused.

The upcoming quarterly session is scheduled Oct. 29.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity. The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period. The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Loan

Continued from page 1



'Native News Today'

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd discussed legislation dealing with loans for the reported health deficit and construction of facilities in Okemah and Eufaula.

for a loan to cover the deficit and to restructure the health department.

"Now the section of restructuring is the only component that remained. The Council took action to repeal 16-045 because it's no longer necessary," he said.

Floyd said the new legislation also restructures the balloon payment loans to a line of credit.

"So the line of credit doesn't mean that we're going to fully utilize $90 million, it's available up to that limit as we need," he said.

Floyd said another benefit to the switch is that the Nation will only pay interest on the amount the Nation draws from the loan.

"Overall, the interest is lower under the loan management agreement than it was under the balloon, five-year agreement," he said.

Floyd said the new loan terms help the Nation avoid lending fees.

"Those fees can be significant into thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars when you're dealing with millions of dollars of loans and a number of banks," he said.

Floyd said the Nation will not have to refinance the loan every several years and will continue to move forward with the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah and Eufaula clinic projects.

MCNCH is scheduled for completion in December, and is set to open shortly afterwards.

Floyd said both of these facilities will allow MCNDH to have access to more services, which will help generate third party revenue and potential grant funds to meet operating costs and hopefully help pay back the loans.

He said the Nation will most likely use a combination of the tribe's capital fund and health revenue to pay the loans.

"We've seen our third party collections grow significantly in the last six months as they've worked hard to identify more alternate resources. We'll continue to work on that and then as the hospitals open, more business coming in, that's how the health care system operates as a business and it really is a business because we have two community hospitals… it just hasn't made money in the past.

"So the line of credit doesn't meant that we're going to fully utilize $90 million, it's available up to that limit as we need."

— MCN Principal Chief James Floyd

"The restructuring authority that we will continue to need will allow us to make those changes as we go forward so that the system operates efficiently," Floyd said.

Floyd said that the Council called an executive session to review the proposed legislation because it dealt with information that could compromise the financial status of the Nation in any future deals.

"It does at times, could touch upon the net value of the tribe and things like that," he said. "So, we went into a short executive session, questions were answered and then immediately the executive session ended, went back into regular session, discussed the bill and the bills were passed."

Typically, executive sessions are meetings exclusive to the Council, principal chief, second chief and the cabinet members requested to stay.

Mvskoke Media is unable to report information discussed in executive session.

View previous coverage of the reported health deficit and loans for the construction of health facilities in these editions

April 1 May 1
May 15 June 1 June 15 July 1
Sept. 1

Card

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of Homeland Security headquarters, nuclear power plants and restricted and semi-restricted federal facilities.

Phase 4 deals with boarding federally-regulated commercial aircrafts.

DHS issued a revised schedule for Phase 4.

Starting Jan. 22, 2018 passengers with a state issued drivers license that is not compliant with the REAL ID Act will need to show an alternate form of identification for domestic flights. Starting Oct. 1, 2020 every air traveler needs a REAL ID-compliant license for domestic air travel.

As of June 2016, 24 states and territories are compliant, 28 have extensions and four states are non-compliant.

Currently, Oklahoma is under an extension for the REAL ID Act through this October, at which time they will find out whether or not they will qualify for another extension.

If approved, the extension would last until 2020.

Walls said that the new tribal cards would be federally recognized.

"So for the tribe, it kind of strengthens our relationship with everybody else because we are issuing an ID card that is REAL ID compliant," Walls said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens can use the enhanced tribal card to travel.

"Basically it allows you travel by land or sea into the United States from Canada, Mexico, Caribbean and Bermuda," Walls said.

Walls said that one of the first steps was to create a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

He said that the memorandum outlined the type of information that has to be on the card, where they store data, issue the cards, policy and procedures and outlines the role U.S. Customs and Border Protections serve.

"The next step in that process was what they call an ISA agreement and it's an inter-service connectivity agreement which basically is the map of how we communicate with Customs and Border Protection," Walls said.

Citizenship is waiting for approval on their ISA.

Seven of their employees had to go through information technology training.

"Anybody that has anything to do with this card has to be approved and training," Wilson said.

Once their ISA gets approved they have to go through a service level agreement.

Walls said as soon as those steps are complete they will test the cards and then U.S. Customs and Border Protection will assess the facility and make sure that it is secure.

Wilson said that if the facility is deemed secure they will be able to issue the enhanced cards.

"We're hoping within the next year that we should be implementing this new card," he said.

Wilson said that there will be a fee for the enhanced card.

"We're looking at $25 to $30 a card because it does act as a passport . . . we are going to try to make it as minimal as possible," Wilson said.

However, the new card will not be mandatory to obtain services.

The new card will also prevent non-citizens from obtaining citizenship.

"There was a lot of fraudulent cards out there. So we tried to work to try to make that a lot better . . . we came across the enhanced tribal ID card and decided to look into it . . . " Wilson said.

Walls said they have had in-depth training for fraudulent documents.

"It's more secure . . . the process of getting that card you have to actually have a face to face interview," Walls said.

Wilson said that MCN will be the first tribe in Oklahoma to get the enhanced card.

MCN job placement service announced

Chelsie Rich
Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Staffing Solutions is in pursuit of helping employers and job seekers meet their needs.

According to their website, MSS helps employers find qualified employees while providing job seekers with employment opportunities.

What is Muscogee Staffing Solutions?

Their site states that MSS is a subsidiary of Muscogee Nation Business LLC (formerly MNBE) a tribal owned Holding Company of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Their site states MSS offers full service contingency placements including contract, temporary, and temporary to permanent and direct hire placements.

"Muscogee Staffing Solutions is our first 8(a) company under Muscogee Nation Businesses," he said.

According to www.investopedia.com, 8(a) is a special status developed through federal legislation that is given to a firm, which is owned and operated by persons deemed to be socially or economically disadvantaged.

Their site states MSS placement services include short term staffing of skilled and unskilled labor.

"Currently we're working with our commercial clients. Light manufacturing, call center and hospitality is kind of our three areas of specialties," Shaw said. "Eventually we'll go into government contracting."

How does the process work?

Shaw said MSS has two aspects of its operation, the employer and job seeker.

MSS collaborates with employers to help meet the staffing needs for their businesses.

"We've helped some internal organizations such as our construction and we're doing some work with River Spirit," he said. "We also work with external employers as well. We're currently talking to multiple manufacturing organizations for machinists and welders."

Shaw said the employer will present a job description to MSS and then they will search for employees to fulfill the needs of the employer.

As for the job seeker, they will work with MSS to find jobs they are qualified for.

He said MSS also works with outside entities that are seeking employees.

Employers and job seekers may contact MSS by going online to: mssjobs.net or by calling: 918-752-3150.

MSS offices are located at Muscogee Nation Businesses at 1018 S. Wood Dr. in Okmulgee. MSS also collaborates with the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center at 8611 S. Union Ave in Tulsa.

Any business or individual is eligible to apply for job assistance.

14TH ANNUAL
PINK PARTY


Minnie Proctor
Guest Speaker




LeAnne Taylor
Guest Speaker

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
1 PM - 4PM
Registration Begins at Noon
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Dome
(Located directly behind the MCN Travel Plaza
at the Intersection of HWY 75 and HWY Loop 56)
For More Information: (918) 732-7617 or Email ggouge@mcn-nsn.gov

Breast Cancer Survivor Only
Registration & Luncheon - 11AM
RSVP Robyn Yearby at:
(918) 756-0310 ext. 258 or robyn.yearby@creekhealth.org

MVSKOKEMEDIA
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MVSKOKE TOURISM & RECREATION AWEPVKSI
MUSCOGEE NATION

MCN shows support for Standing Rock



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Northwest Indian College TRIO Student Support Services Director Patrick Freeland took his students to the Standing Rock Sioux protest.

Citizen takes group to protest

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation showed their support for protesters at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota by joining their ranks and by donating daily necessities.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other tribes stand united in their protest against the North Dakota Access Pipeline that was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

They state the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval violated the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws when they approved to run the pipeline not only through ancestral lands but also a half a mile away from the Standing Rock Reservation.

The $3.7 billion project known as the Dakota Access Pipeline is approximately 1,172-miles in length and will connect the Bakken and Three-Forks oil production areas in North Dakota to pipelines in Illinois. The pipeline is expected to reduce the use of rail and truck transportation of crude oil.

Construction on the pipeline was temporarily halted Sept. 4

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg decided Sept. 9 against the efforts of the Standing Rock Sioux to block construction.

That same day, a joint statement from the Departments of Justice, the Interior and the Army called for a halt in construction of the pipelines path across federal lands and a section of the Missouri River.

MCN was one of the 87 tribes that signed a resolution of support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The MCN National Council passed TR 16-140, sponsored by Reps. Mark Randolph and Joyce Deere, opposing the pipeline Aug. 23.

The resolution was signed by MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

"I thought how can we help them, how can we support them actually advocate because what happens to them eventually happens to us," Randolph said.

MCN Office of Public Relations announced a donation drive Aug. 30 at the Mvskoke Dome for the protesters at the Standing Rock Reservation. Creek citizens came together and donated items such as water, food and toiletries.

"We just wanted to be a part of it in assisting our neighboring tribe to the north," MCN Tourism and Recreation, Manager Rojer Johnson said.

Citizen Patrick Freeland, the Director of TRIO Students Support Services at the Northwest Indian College, took a group of five TRIO students to the Standing Rock protest on Aug. 19.

TRIO refers to a number of U.S. federal programs to increase access to higher education for students.

"When we got there, there was an overwhelming sense of familiarity," Freeland said.

Freeland and his students made camp at the Sacred Stone Camp. They were able to witness firsthand the environmental importance of the land.

"Where we were located we were camping literally on beds of sweet grass and sage with buffalo berries and choke cherries and wild rose and all these medicine plants just growing all around us," he said.

Freeland believes that the protesters at Standing Rock will be successful in stopping the pipeline.

"Regardless of the many injustices that have occurred throughout Indian Country and even still occur, I work much better with hope than I do with despair . . . if I see an opportunity to do something that's proactive and positive and helpful I'm going to take that opportunity," Freeland said.

Nuyaka Bridge undergoing disassembly process



Honey Caranzo/MNN

Efforts to save the historical Nuyaka Bridge are currently underway.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Nuyaka Bridge, which is located around 14.5 miles west of Okmulgee, is in the process of being dismantled and removed from the site.

According to previous Mvskoke Media coverage, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation approved the bridge or replacement, and Okmulgee County District Attorney Rob Barris has authorized reconstruction of it within the City of Okmulgee.

A proposed plan is to incorporate the bridge into a walking or bike trail.

According to the ODOT Adopt-A-Bridge Program, the bridge was built in 1908.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa, Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
— Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
— Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications
***Additional eligibility criteria do apply.**

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). $200 compensation ($100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our website at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

MCN departments featured at Tulsa State Fair

Volunteers explain services, hold games for attendees

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted an exhibit throughout the annual Tulsa State Fair held at the River Spirit Expo Center in Tulsa.

Several departments were featured along with games for attendees.

One of the departments that had a huge presence there was the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department.

LTPD Chief of Police Robert Hawkins spoke about being one of the departments representing the Nation.

"We were asked to be one of the departments featured at the State Fair this year," he said. "We said we would be more than happy to showcase something that belongs to the Nation."

LTPD brought one of their vehicles that fit in with another cause that is going on throughout the month.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and one of the main colors is pink.

LTPD has one of the patrol vehicles wrapped in pink.

"We are looking forward to showing one of our cars at the fair," Hawkins said. "We want everyone to know that Tulsa is in Creek Nation jurisdiction."

Hawkins feels that it is a good thing being at the fair because of the news that has been going on dealing with law enforcement officers.

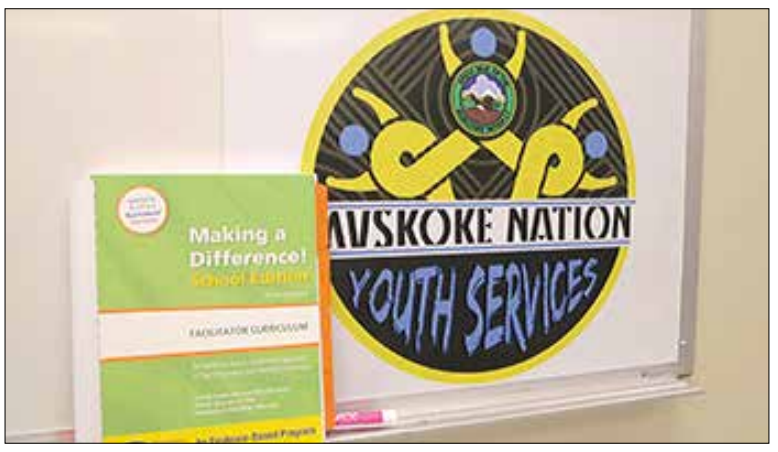
"We want to show everyone that they can come talk to us and ask us anything," he said. "We know there are little kids who want to be police officers when they get older and sometimes, seeing an officer can make their day."

MCN Public Relations Media Relations Specialist Kacie Ryal spoke about the exhibit and the big help that the volunteers do to make everything run smoothly.

"A lot of people do not understand that volunteers are what help us make sure everything runs good," she said.

Ryal said there are about 160 employees that helped and offered their time to work at the exhibit and talk about the services MCN has to offer.

"We get so many questions about our tribe and our volunteers do a great job answering them," Ryal said. "It gives us a chance to educate people who do not know about the tribe."



Honey Caranzo/MNN

MNYS teaches safe sex classes

Youth Services hopes to reduce teen pregnacies

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Nation Youth Services is teaching teen pregnancy prevention classes that began Sept. 20 for middle school students and Sept. 21 for high school students.

Classes are held at the MNYS office in downtown Okmulgee every Tuesday through Nov. 8 for middle school students and every Wednesday through Nov. 9 for high school students.

MNYS Director Nancy Mason and Program Development Specialist Rachael Sourjohn are leading the classes.

"Nancy and I got trained over the summer to teach this curriculum and as soon we were able to teach it we found a spot for us to start teaching classes," Sourjohn said.

Both Sourjohn and Mason are passionate about the curriculum.

"Oklahoma is actually number two in the nation for teen pregnancies for ages 15 through 19, so we just saw a need in the community to fill that need," Sourjohn said.

The program for middle school students is 'Making a Difference.' The program for high school students is 'Making Proud Choices.'

Both curriculums are evidence-based programs that equip students with the knowledge and confidence, to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

Sourjohn said that the middle school classes are abstinence based.

"In the high school version it is about safer sex, so we do teach about condoms and birth control," Sourjohn said.

She said that they separate boys and girls because of the differences in the things they talk about.

"It's helpful to have them separated for their confidentiality and to make them feel comfortable. If you are a sixth grader you're probably not going to want to sit there with an 18 year-old," Sourjohn said.

Sourjohn said that the classes are coed.

"They kind of need to have knowledge on both sides of the fence, so that when you're going into something as serious as sex, you need to know kind of what's going on on the other end as well," Sourjohn said.

She said that if the students want to talk to any of the MNYS staff privately that the students can do so before or after a session.

"I hope that they learn to protect themselves, whether they choose to have sex or not as long as they are being safe about it. So I hope that they really take the core components of the program and use it in their everyday life," Sourjohn said.

She said that they would like to offer this program three times a year in different communities.

They are working on implementing this program in Okmulgee County schools.

For information about the classes call MNYS at: 918-549-2557.

RIVER SPIRIT®
CASINO RESORT

OFFER EXTENDED

$10 FREE PLAY & $15 RESTAURANT VOUCHER

Available to all Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens who show their citizenship card and a Connect card at Players Club. Tribal members who do not currently have a Connect card can sign up at Players Club.



OFFER EXPIRES
NOVEMBER 30, 2016

See Players Club for additional information. Must be 21 or older to participate. Certain exclusions apply.
See restaurant voucher for details.

DACE TIGER



TULSA, Okla. — Dace was born Nov. 26, 1996 in Tulsa. Dace resided in Bixby with his Mother, Cindi Mae Tiger, when he completed his high school credits at Eufaula High School at mid-year December 2014. While attending some high school years at Bixby High School, Dace Mikko was a MJROTC cadet and was head man dancer for the eighth annual Indian Heritage Club Powwow in 2011.

Dace was a very spiritual person for his 19 years on our Mother Earth. A lifelong member of the Euchee Kellyville Ceremonial Ground and active participate with the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground, Dace began singing around the ceremonial ground at six-years-old. Dace Mikko led for the first time when the verses of his songs began getting easier to remember. From then on, he caught the attention of the mekkos and chief when he led while in loving fellowship around the ceremonial fire. Always visiting with friends and relatives, Dace Mikko served as a good ambassador for his Ceremonial Ground wherever he went, even to the various other tribal ceremonial grounds. A popular photograph of Dace leading stompdance along with his mother has been circulated throughout Indian Country. An accomplished vocalist, several recordings have been circulated through social media to the count of 30,500 views in the few weeks posted.

Dace is a fifth generation member of the Native American Church. Birdcreek Shawnee is the family home fire, established in 1934 on Cordelia Tyner's allotment near Sperry. Jerline Beatrice Chisholm, Dace's grandmother made him an individual Indian landowner to her home fire in White Oak. For those who had the pleasure of listening to him, he always had a wonderful song to share. Dace Mikko could always rock a tipi with a song list from Caddo to Shawnee, Otoe, Comanche and Sioux to his native Euchee. Dace was one of the few people that could speak the Euchee language through prayer and songs! One of Senora Amada Cardidas favorite grandchildren, he could always be found praying at her home place in February in Miranda City, Texas. Dace's voice was amazing, to hear his sweet voice was like listening to a real songbird and the effect he had on so many lives still has me in awe. Dace gained a lot of respect throughout Indian Country, but of course he would that is our Mikko, a respectable young man who will certainly be missed, never forgotten and forever loved!

ESTHER MAE BRUNER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At 85-years-old, Esther Mae (Frank) Bruner peacefully left the earth to be with her Heavenly Father Aug. 5, 2016 surrounded by family and friends at her home in northeast Okmulgee County.

She was a dedicated mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, member of Twin Hills Indian Community and a life-long member of Concharty United Methodist Church located just south of her home.

Esther attended and worked for the advancement of the church, following God's calling since birth along with other family members and relatives.

She sternly and consistently encouraged others to attend, worship God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Although ever so humble and quiet, her presence was enormous.

Not every senior can or should be deemed an 'elder' simply because of the amount of years lived. That title must be earned through actions, words and traits both preached and practiced. Esther Mae (Frank) Bruner was a true elder. Esther left an everlasting impact on those with whom she came into contact. She will exist in spirit and memory until we meet again in our home not made with hands. Mvn tehecakares.

Funeral services were held Aug. 9 at Concharty United Methodist Church and internment was at the Ida Tecumseh Cemetery in northeast Okmulgee County on the Ida Tecumseh allotment.

We, the family of Esther Mae (Frank) Bruner, extend our sincerest gratitude to all of those that lent a helping hand or extended words and/or actions of kindness and empathy during our hour of need. Mvto make ton tos! Our mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and sister will truly be missed. God bless you all.

Byrd/Harjo family reunion set Oct. 29

TULSA, Okla. — A Harjo/Byrd family reunion has been set for 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oct. 29 at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132.

Bring a covered dish, paper plates and cups. A prize will be given for those who bring Sofkee.

Attendees are encouraged to bring crafts for purchase and old pictures. There will be prize drawings.

For more information call: 918-629-2914.



Benefit bingo event set for Oct. 29

DEWAR, Okla. — A benefit bingo event has been set for the medical expenses of Renee Riley Oct. 29 at the Dewar Indian Community Center in Dewar.

The food sale begins at 12 p.m. and bingo will start at 2 p.m.

Family potluck dinner set for Nov. 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A Franks and Fixco memorial family potluck dinner has been set 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Nov. 5 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

Meat dishes will be provided. There will be a drawing for gifts and attendees are encouraged to bring an item to give to the winners. There will also be a Seminole/Creek language word game.

For more information call Susie Wind at: 405-712-9983.

Native Bible study offered by mail

Discovery Bible School is offering a free 30-lesson Bible study by and for Native Americans called Native New Day. They are sent by mail and those who are interested may contact us at PO Box 14208, Tulsa, OK 74159.

MNN submission deadlines

Nov. 1 — Oct. 24

Nov. 15 — Nov. 7

Dec. 1 — Nov. 22



Lighthorse police report September 2016

Lighthorse
Police Records

9/12/2016
Information Report made by Officer Lyday at Eufaula Housing, Eufaula
Found Property report taken by Officer Bannon, College of Muscogee Nation, Okmulgee

9/13
Citation for Operating a Motor Vehicle not Reasonable and Proper issued by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee

9/14
Warrant arrest made by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee
Possession of CDS/AFCF by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee
Citation for Disorderly Conduct issued by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant Arrest made by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant Arrest made by Officer Arnold at One Fire Casino, Okmulgee

9/15
Aggravated A & B report taken by Capt. Northcross at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant arrest made by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant arrest made by Officer Hawk at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant arrest made by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/17
Possession of CDS arrest made by Officer Bynum at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant arrest made by Officer Morris in the Eufaula area
Warrant arrest made by Officer Lyday in the Eufaula area
Vandalism report taken by Officer Lee at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Larceny report taken by Officer Lee at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/18
DUI arrest made by Officer Maddocks at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Theft of Automobile report and arrest made by Officer Bynum at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Possession of CDS arrest made by Officer Pickering at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/19
Information Report taken by Capt. Northcross at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Citation for Obstructing an Officer by Officer Bynum at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle report taken by Officer Cummings at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Citation for Running a Stop Sign issued by Officer Hawk at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/20
Possession of CDS/AFCF arrest made by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee,

9/21
Larceny report taken by Officer Regian at Okfuskee Indian Community, Okemah
Grand Larceny report taken by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Larceny report taken by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/22
Warrant arrest made by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee
Warrant arrest made by Officer Maddocks in the Checotah area

9/23
Vehicle Impoundment for Expired tag by Officer Delaune at Bristow Casino, Bristow

9/24
Warrant arrest made by K-9 Officer Williams at One Fire Casino, Okmulgee
Petit Larceny report made by Officer Hawk at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Citation for No Driver's License issued by K-9 Officer Williams at One Fire Casino, Okmulgee

9/25
Citation for Expired Tag issued by Officer Maddocks at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee
Accident Report taken by Officer Beaver at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Theft report and arrest made by Officer Lee at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Law Enforcement Assist-OHP-Officer Lee, SB Hwy 75 S. of Duck Creek Casino
Unattended Death report taken by Officer Bannon in the Eufaula area
Information taken by Officer Mitchell at Golden Pony Casino, Clearview
Abandoned Vehicle Report made by Officer Mitchell at I-40 and Hwy 56

9/26
Theft report taken by Officer Hawk at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Warrant Arrest made and transport by Officer Lyday at Tahlequah Police Department.

9/27
Theft of Automobile report taken by Officer Bynum at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Unauthorized Use of Credit Card Report taken by Officer Lyday at Muskogee Casino, Muskogee
Vandalism report taken by Sgt. Henry at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/28
Theft report taken by Sgt. Bear at One Fire Casino, Okmulgee
Uttering a Forged Instrument Report taken and arrest made by Officer Cummings at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

9/29
Warrant arrest made and transport by Officer Townsend at DL Moss Detention, Tulsa

9/30
Citation for Failure to Stop at Stop Sign and Expired Tag issued by Officer Botts at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa
Citation for Expired Tag issued by Officer Lane at River Spirit Casino, Tulsa

Totals for September 2016
417 Calls for Service were received.
25 Citations were issued.
43 Arrests were made.

Federal loans available for tribal, citizen business endeavors



Sterling Cosper/*Program Flier*

The U.S. Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Division of Capital Investment has a business development program to improve the chances of loan approvals for tribes and citizens.

In the foreground is a citizen who owns a business located on the Pine Ridge Reservation and in the background is the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, both of which benefitted from this service.

Citizen administering program highlights benefits

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee Michael Berryhill wants people back home to know about a federal loan program he helps administer, which provides business financing for tribes and citizens.

"I was really surprised at the lack of knowledge that tribal leaders had about it," he said.

He said those looking into a loan will have to go through the usual approval process with a financial institution but said the program's federal funding improves chances of receiving assistance.

"You can't come in there with like a credit score of 200 because a bank will not fund you," Berryhill said. "The bank has to approve you on your own but with the loan guarantee attached to it, it does make the bank more likely to approve an individual for a loan."

Berryhill is the eastern zone manager for the U.S. Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Division of Capital Investment and explained the main goal of his program.

'The loan program helps facilitate loan financing for borrowers that would not be able to do so otherwise,' he said in a written statement. 'The Division helps secure reasonable interest rates and reduces risks for all parties involved.'

Berryhill said in the statement that his program does larger loans than the Mvskoke Loan Fund, which is administered by Muscogee (Creek) Nation and that they may fit different needs.

'That is minimal with loans maxing out at $50 grand. We do loans up to $40 million and the interest rate is negotiated between the banks, the borrower and my office.

'I don't want to say one is better than the other - mine is more large scale for tribal members and tribes as a whole.'

A flier for the federal program states that loans are available up to $500,000 for citizens and more is available for tribal organizations.

Through the statement, Berryhill expressed his interest in a potential collaboration between the two programs.

'I noticed they just started in 2013 and I am sure it will grow- so maybe I can connect with them too and they can be a resource for me if someone wants something larger.'

The flier states that their services can be used through community financial development institutions like MLF.

It states these loans are available for a variety of expenses such as operating capital, equipment, business acquisition and refinancing, construction and lines of credit. Investopedia.com defines capital as more durable than money as it is used to generate wealth through investment.

According to the flier, the program was established through Indian Financing Act of 1974 provisions to reduce the disparity between business capital available to Indian and non-Indian business.

'The Division helps secure reasonable interest rates and reduces risks for all parties involved.'

— U.S. Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Division of Capital Investment Eastern Zone Manager Michael Berryhill

For more information about the program, visit: www.indianaffairs.gov/IEED or contact Berryhill at: 202-208-4027, Richard.berryhill@bia.gov.

MVSKOKEMEDIA conducts phone survey of MCN programs

Citizens give opinions on phone responses

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — You found the time to chat about an issue, or make a request and gather your thoughts as you pick up your phone. You hear dial tone, 10 beeps as you tap the buttons, followed by a countdown of rings.

Then the faceless voice tells you now is not a good time and to leave a message.

It is a concern that we as a department have heard multiple times, complaints from citizens of unanswered phone calls, unheard voice mails and unreturned responses.

Even recently during Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd's quarterly address, National Council Rep. Rufus Scott commented about citizen criticism of ignored phones when trying to contact MCN for services.

"I couldn't agree more with you. That's our job. That's our obligation to work with our citizens," Floyd said.

Floyd encouraged his cabinet members during the meeting to assure that employees answer and return phone calls.

Being the naturally curious journalists that we are, we wanted to see if citizens were right.

What did we do?

For the past six months, Mvskoke Media called 27 departments and programs on seven different occasions. We chose the departments based upon which ones we thought citizens would call the most.

Our staff members randomly chose days and times to call departments, varying from Monday morning, Friday afternoon and during lunch hours to see if the responses differed. We also did not let anyone know we were conducting a survey and called from personal lines so the numbers would not be recognized.

However, we figure the departments that were called made note the first time they received a phone call from a person stating they were with Mvskoke Media and were conducting a survey.

The survey is not without flaws.

We did not want to bog down the system, so we only noted whether the phone was answered or if it went to voice mail. We have no idea if a legitimate concern or request would have been responded to at the time of our call, only if the main phone number for the department was simply answered.

We did not leave voice mails since we did not have an urgent need. However, on some of the calls we made that were missed, the department called us back within 24 hours. We noted this on our call log.

We also noted if we received a voice mail system that had not been set up.

Some of the calls went to an automated system that could direct our calls to a specific person or specialized area. We just made note of the system and did not try to direct ourselves.

The phone numbers we used were pulled from the MCN website in March. The website was updated June 25, and we verified the phone numbers were the same.

After we started our call logs, we wanted to get citizen input on their experiences.

We launched a 10-question online survey that was open from July 10-July 25 and received 46 responses.

Eight of the questions were specific in nature, the ninth requested statements we could use in our coverage of the issue and the tenth requested contact information for those that were interested in being interviewed. The last two questions could be skipped.

We received 22 statement responses in the survey and felt we had enough information for our coverage by using the anonymous statements.

The citizens' survey had flaws as well. Some of the responses that citizens provided in the 'other' column probably could have had their own category.

For example, we used the 800 number for the main line. The local version of that phone number is 918-756-8700 and is also directed to the main switchboard.

We also asked how quickly their question or need was answered. Several 'other' respondents answered, 'never.'

Ring, ring. Who's there?

Of the seven times that we called, the following phone lines answered our calls 100 percent of the time:

Main phone line
1-800 number
Executive office
National Council office
Children and Family Services
College of the Muscogee Nation
Community Research and Development Department
Food Distribution Program
Higher Education Program
Personnel and Human Resources
Reintegration Program
School Clothing Program
Social Services
Tax Commission

That equates to 48.1 percent of the departments we called had a representative answer all of our phone calls.

Behavioral Health Services had a representative answer all but one of our phone calls. One of the calls was answered by an automated system.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise had a representative answer 28.6 percent of our phone calls. An automated system answered 71.4 percent of our calls.

That meant 7.4 percent of the departments we called had a combination of representative or an automated system answer our phone calls.

The following departments answered over 50 percent of the time:

Child Care Program
Citizenship Office
Election Board
Department of Health
Housing Department
Social Security Program
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program
Transit Services
Women, Infants and Children Program

The Elderly Nutrition Program and Employment and Training Department answered our phone calls less than 50 percent of the time.

The Veterans Affairs Service Office directly answered our calls 42.9 percent of the time. Of the calls that were missed, the department returned all but one of the phone calls to the number that called them.

They were the only department or program to return any of our phone calls, regardless of us not leaving a message.

Again, we have no idea if a citizen's needs would have been responded to immediately since we simply called a number and did not ask for any assistance.

Hello? What did the citizens say?

When we started our online citizen survey, we were anticipating 20 responses. We crossed our fingers and hoped that a couple of those would give responses when a statement was requested.

We received more than double the estimated amount, and half of our respondents left a comment.

The main question from the survey asked citizens to rate the overall phone customer service at the Nation. Over 50 percent of respondents said the service they received was poor.

The general comments gave mixed reviews.

'When people do finally answer they are not very professional and also don't seem to know what they are doing,' one respondent said.

Some commented on training in etiquette, hiring professional staff or requirements of having the phone answered by the third ring.

'Main Switch Board must understand this is the first impression [they] get when they call the Nation. Other tribes beat us in this area,' another respondent said.

Some gave praise.

'Have been very satisfied in contacting the different departments. On the times I had to wait for an answer or had to wait for a particular person the wait was minimal and I always receive an answer!! The Citizenship Board employees have been wonderful, always ready to help solve any issues I have called them about!!!'

Some even gave shout outs to specific employees.

'I love my Jessica Lowe and Pete Coser. They help. It took months to get a response from School Clothing, but eventually it worked out.'

Others asked for accountability.

'I feel like people need to be accountable for the department they work in, I've dealt with a lot of different tribes but when I contact Okmulgee I would like to talk to a live person instead of voice mail, I understand there are meetings, lunch hours, and just being away from the desk but if they have a voice mail message they need to call it back.

'It's frustrating having to call back to the main number, today I got hung up on from environmental services and called housing 4x [times] only to have the lady I spoke with say, "they should have picked up, never mind I will take your name and number and walk it over to them!"

'That is poor customer service and phone etiquette. I hope as a tribal member myself this issue gets resolved. I do appreciate this survey being done, it's the first step! MVTO for listening!'

Mvto for calling!

In an email to all MCN staff sent out August 24, Tribal Administrator Judy Haumpy requested that staff forward their phones to another staff member when they are unable to answer their phone, or to set up a voice mail for messages to be left in the employee's absence.

'I understand there are going to be times when leaving a message would be more appropriate. Please check you messages on a routine schedule and clear your messages on a regular basis. This will ensure adequate service to our employees and/or citizens.'

Though we do not know if our survey will adequately address citizens' concerns, we hope that it starts the conversation.

What has been your experience with calling MCN?

See graphs of survey data on page 15

Items to note when viewing the data:

Due to raised concerns from citizens regarding phone calls to Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mvskoke Media decided to conduct a phone call survey.

Mvskoke Media identified departments that it felt citizens might call for services or questions.

Phone numbers for the departments were taken from the MCN website in March. The website was updated June 25. Phone numbers for the departments were verified to be the same after the update.

Mvskoke Media made the phone calls from the staff's personal cell phones so that calls would be made from numbers that were not associated with the tribe, and would not appear on caller ID as an MCN entity.

Mvskoke Media did not notify MCN entities of our intentions to conduct a phone call study so that the results would as closely mimic the results of a citizen's phone call as possible. Subsequent dates and times of our calls were not announced nor planned. The survey took place from March-August.

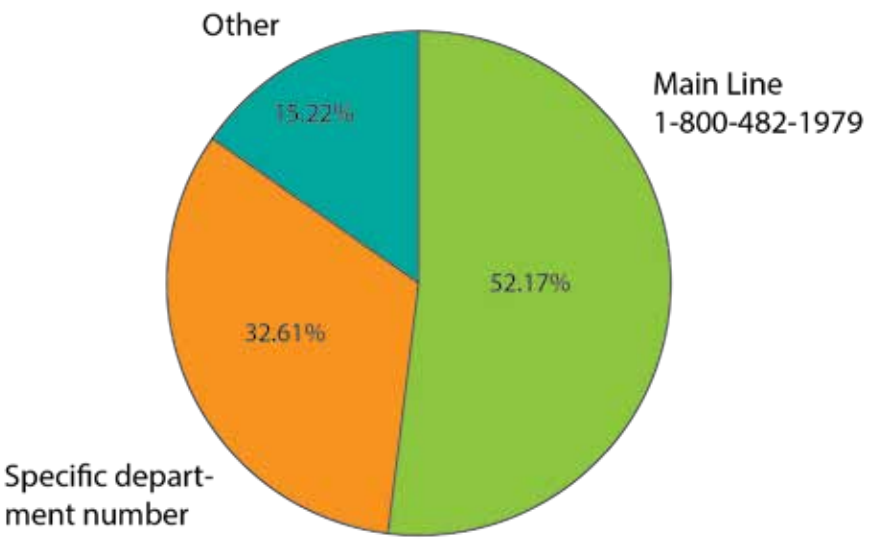
Mvskoke Media did not leave messages for the departments. If a line reached voice mail or an automated system, the call was ended. In some cases, departments returned the phone call even though no message was left.

Mvskoke Media called the main phone number for departments, and did not contact specific individuals. If our call had been that of a citizen, we cannot report if that citizen would have received immediate assistance through the individual that answered the phone. It is a possibility that the individual would have needed to transfer the caller to another individual for assistance. It is also possible that the transferred call could have gone to an individual's voice mail.

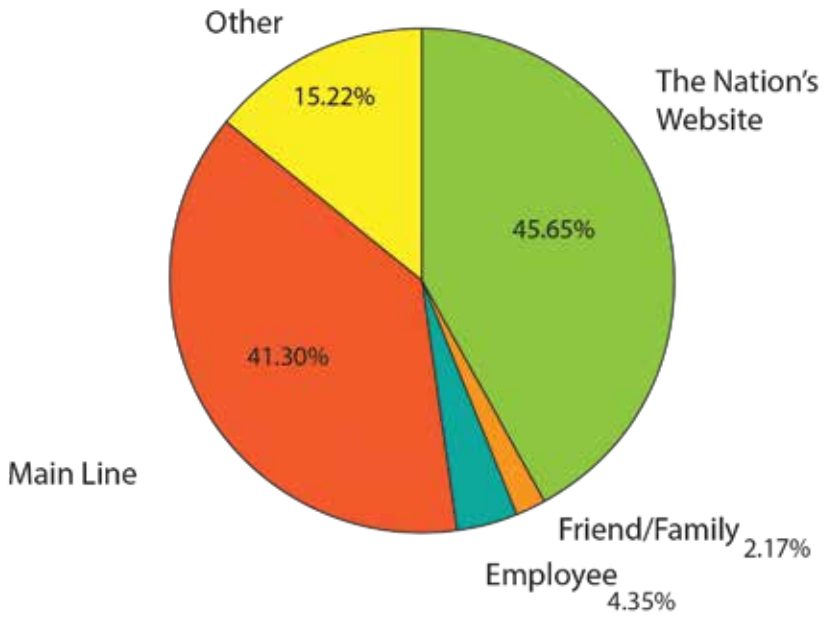
Mvskoke Media conducted an online survey of citizens that yielded 46 responses. The survey asked questions regarding citizens' call habits and their experiences when calling MCN.

Mvskoke Media allowed 'other' response answers to be fill-in-the-blank as to not influence the results. Mvskoke Media also provided a response box for citizens to leave a comment for any questions or information they wished to provide on the subject. Though some respondents left their name and contact information, Mvskoke Media left all responses as anonymous to protect sources and private information.

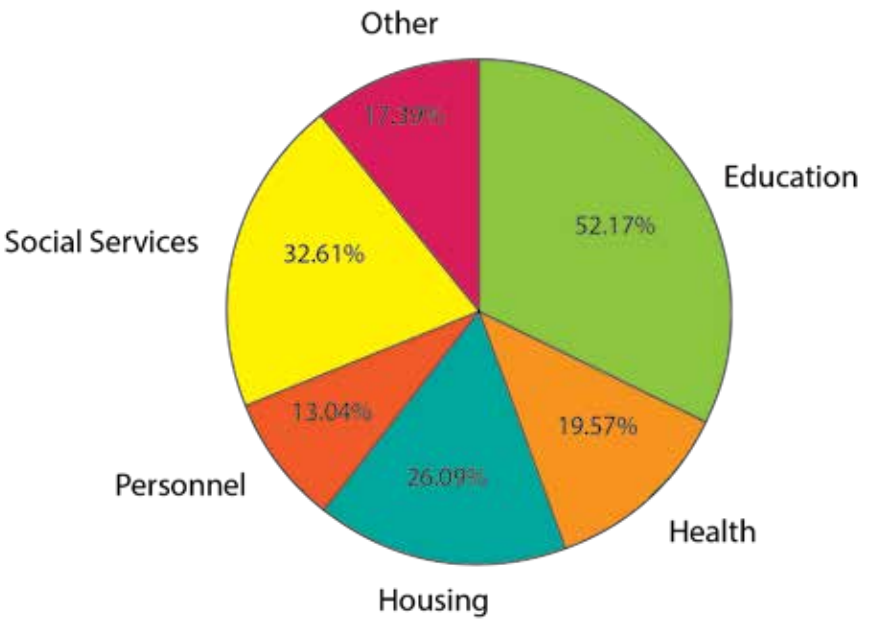
When you call Muscogee (Creek) Nation, do you call the main line (1-800-482-1979) or specific departmental phone number?



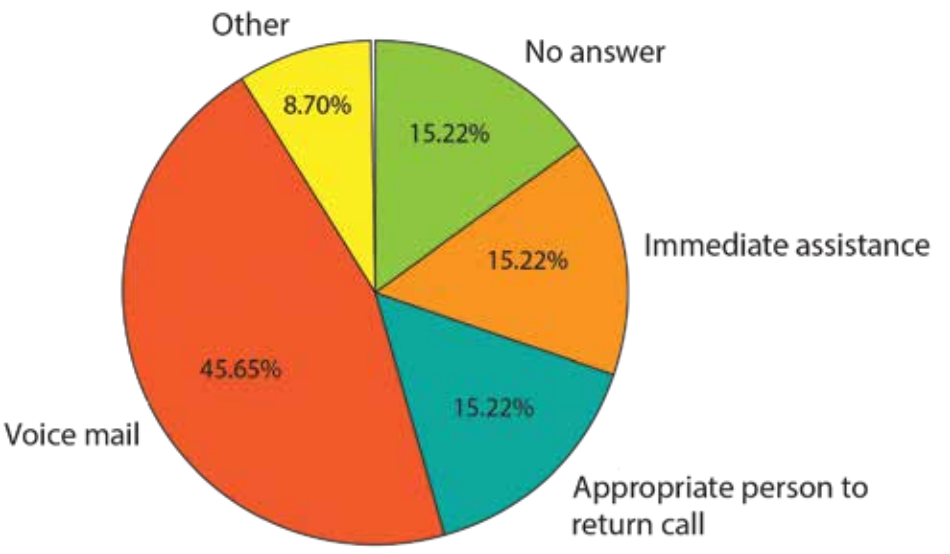
Where do you locate the phone numbers you use to contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation?



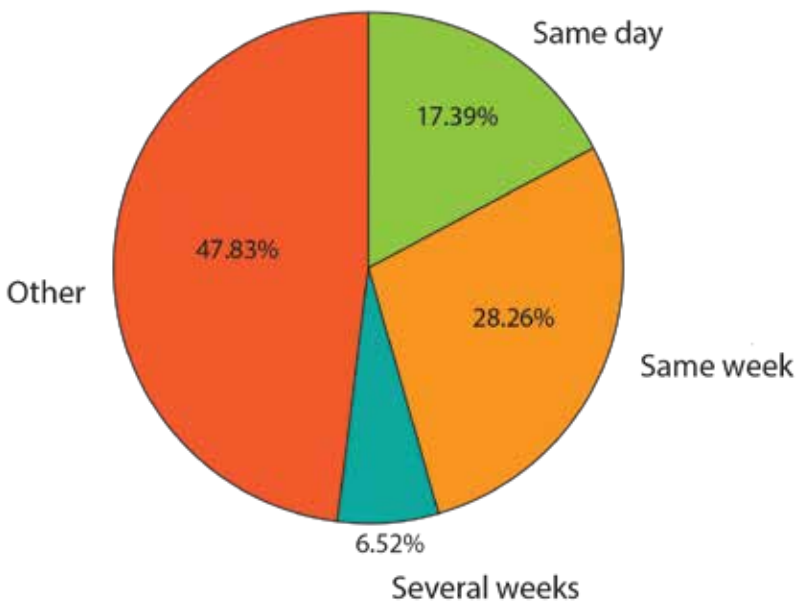
When you call Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which services are you typically seeking?



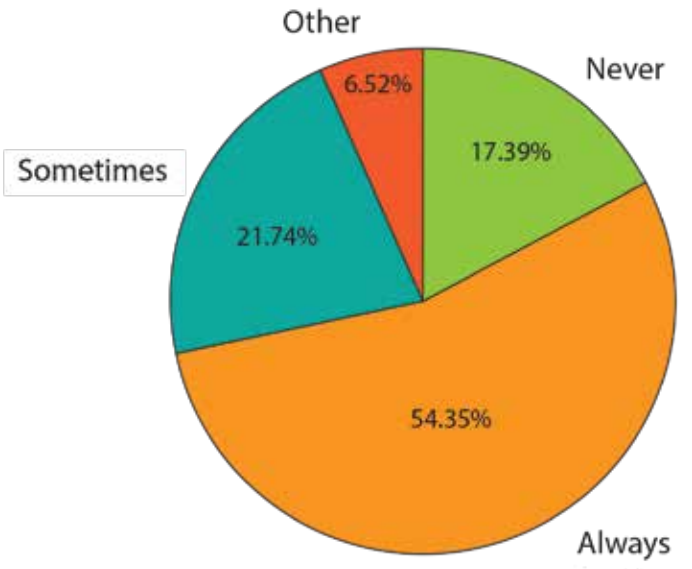
What is the most common response to your phon call?



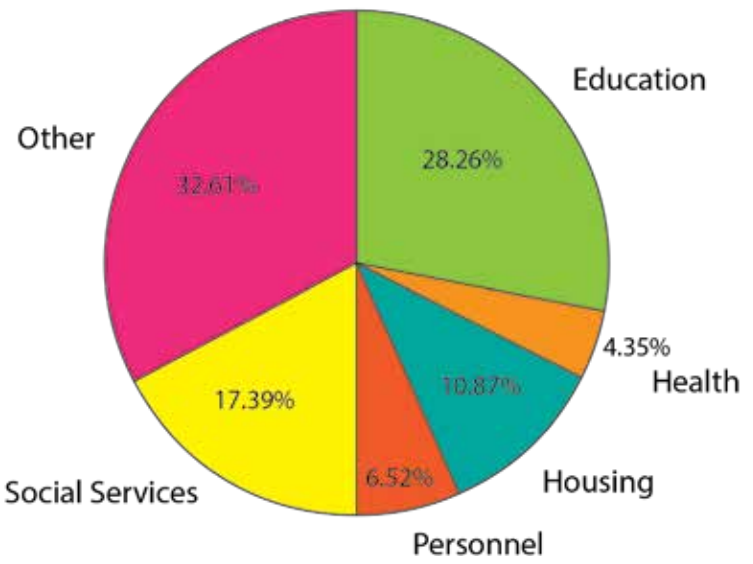
What is the time frame you receive an answer to your initial phone call?



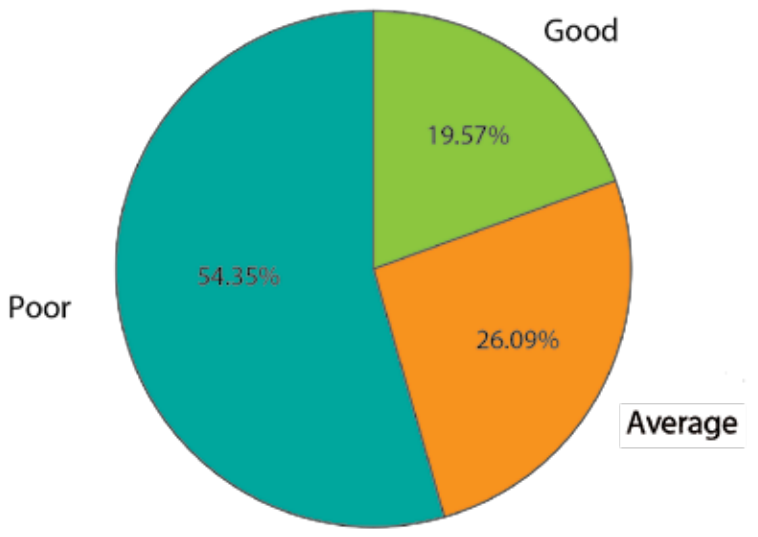
How often do you have to visit the Nation's offices in order to complete your request?



What department have you had the most trouble getting to respond to your phone call?



How would you rate the overall phone customer service at the Nation?



See call logs on page 16

Number	Wed.- 8/3/16 8:22 a.m.	Fri.- 7/22/16 12:00 p.m.	Fri.- 7/1/16 8:35 a.m.	Thurs.- 6/30/16 1:15 p.m.	Mon.- 5/23/16 10:15 a.m.	Tues.- 3/29/16 2:50 p.m.	Thurs.- 3/24/16 2:20 p.m.	Tues.- 3/8/16 8:11 a.m.	Fri.- 3/4/16 3:00 p.m.
Main Line (800-482-1979)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Executive Office (918-732-7605)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
National Council Office (918-758-1410)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Behavioral Health (888-756-4333)	✓	Automated System	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
MNBE (918-752-3150)	Automated Sytem	Automated System	-	✓	✓	-	Automated System	Automated System	Automated System
Child Care (800-205-3705)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	Voice Mail
Children and Family Services (918-732-7869)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Citizenship (918-732-7941)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	Voice Mail	✓	✓
CMN (918-549-2800)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
CRD (918-732-7963)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Elderly Nutrition (918-549-2600)	✓	Voice Mail	✓	-	Voice Mail	-	Voice Mail	✓	Voice Mail
Election Board (918-732-7631)	Voice Mail	✓	✓	-	✓	-	Voice Mail	✓	✓
Employment and Training (918-732-7777)	✓	✓	Voice Mail	-	No Voice Mail Set Up	Voice Mail	-	✓	Voice Mail
Food Distribution (918-549-2401)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Health (800-782-8291)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	Voice Mail	✓	✓

Number	Wed.- 8/3/16 8:22 a.m.	Fri.- 7/22/16 12:00 p.m.	Fri.- 7/1/16 8:35 a.m.	Thurs.- 6/30/16 1:15 p.m.	Mon.- 5/23/16 10:15 a.m.	Tues.- 3/29/16 2:50 p.m.	Thurs.- 3/24/16 2:20 p.m.	Tues.- 3/8/16 8:11 a.m.	Fri.- 3/4/16 3:00 p.m.
Higher Education (918-732-7689)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Housing (918-549-2500)	✓	✓	✓	-	No Voice Mail Set Up	Voice Mail	-	✓	Voice Mail
Personnel/Human Resources (918-732-7827)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Reintegration (800-259-1059)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
School Clothing (918-549-2473)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Social Security (918-549-2475)	✓	✓	✓	-	Voice Mail	✓	-	Voice Mail	Voice Mail
Social Services (918-549-2445)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
TANF (918-732-7985)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	Voice Mail	-	✓	✓
Tax Commission (918-756-6374)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Transit (918-732-7909)	✓	✓	-	Voice Mail	Voice Mail	✓	-	Voice Mail	✓
Veterans Affairs (918-732-7739)	Voice Mail*	Voice Mail	✓	-	✓	Voice Mail*	-	Voice Mail*	✓
WIC (800-648-2302)	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	Voice Mail	-	✓	✓

*Returned call within the work day

DeLaune's Corner: Enjoy the little things



MNN File Photo

Slow down, breathe, relax and remember moments

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — I visited a friend of mine at her job one night to bring her some coffee. I happened to be near where she was so I chose to bring her something to help (well, I hoped) make her night a little easier.

After a little while, I got to see her and give her, her drink, I was about to leave so she could get back to work when we started talking about our jobs.

My friend is a nurse and we all know with that profession, conditions can be similar to a hurricane or as calm as a fall evening with one leaf moving around in the wind. The one thing out of our conversations that really stuck out was a story she told me.

She was with a patient who was about to go to bed. Before she left to check on her other patients, this one told her to come closer and the patient told my friend, 'I love you.'

My friend said that stayed with her because the next day she was going to check on her when she found out that the patient passed away.

My friend said that was the last thing her patient said to her and what she remembers is how beautiful her hands were. It was her hands that came to her mind that makes her remember everything about this patient.

Because of what she told me, here is the reason why I am writing this column to you, my readers, but more importantly, my friends. My task for you is to…enjoy the little things.

It was the little things that helped her to remember this patient, her hands.

I have always been told that there are significant parts of your life that stand out but it is the little things that keep you moving forward and helps to enjoy the day, hour, minute or second.

Those little bits of time are what can help make it better.

My friend gave me her example of what she enjoyed from the little things in not only her job, but in her life.

There are a lot of examples that I can give but I will try to narrow it down.

One example, is when my daughter was a toddler and when we asked for a kiss she would pucker her lips and make the kissing noise before she kissed your cheek.

When one of my coworkers smile, she will wink at you. What makes that even better is I do not think she knows that she does that.

When I get letters or thank yous from readers or people that listen to me on the radio. That shows me that what I write is important and it also tells me I do have more than one person reading an article or listening to the radio (which I usually think is myself).

Lastly, I would say is, I try to greet everyone possible, whether I know them or not. It helps to remind myself that in those two seconds, someone could have had their day improved or someone just needed to hear a hello from someone else.

Those are the little things that make it great for me. Smiles, greetings, being able to hear someone's voice when I read their message and hearing my daughter say Hvtvm Cehecvres which means 'I will see you again.'

What are some of yours?

Think about them. Slow down and enjoy the moment. Breathe, relax and remember those moments that make your time here so much more enjoyable.

So from that night, bringing my friend her coffee was just a small gesture. A small moment in time but to me, it was a little moment that I enjoyed.

Elder shares her life, views

Coker talks about veterans, environment

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is a quiet morning at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elderly Nutrition Center. The cooks are in the kitchen preparing the next meal when in walks a 93-year-old Muscogee (Creek) elder. With a help of a stroller, Jorene (Anderson) Coker proceeds to find the nearest seat to begin her story.

Jorene was born in Okmulgee in 1923 and said she was named after her grandfather Joseph Gibson.

"My parents wanted to name me Irene," she said. "One of the members at my church (Newtown United Methodist) said to name me after my grandfather. So my name became Jorene and my middle name is Gibson."

Jorene came from a family who believed in serving in the armed forces.

Her father, Samuel Anderson Sr., fought in France in 1918 during the Meusse-Argonne Offensive, which was part of World War I.

She and her brother, Samuel Anderson Jr. both served in World War II.

Her younger sister, Elaine Anderson was a Marine who served in the Korean War and her younger brother, Vernon Anderson was in the Peace Time Army.

She said her great-grandfather was Samuel Checote, who fought in the Civil War as a lieutenant colonel and was the first MCN principal chief.

Jorene began her service in the U.S. Navy in 1944.

"I travelled from Okmulgee to New York City by train because that is where my boot camp was at," she said. "It was at Hunter College. The Navy rented the college out for our boot camp."

Jorene remembers living on the sixth floor in the building and having to run down the stairs every morning for roll call.

"They wanted to make sure we did not go AWOL," she said jokingly.

Jorene was selected for the 'Singing Platoon' during her time in the Navy.

"I participated in several concerts," she said. "We went to several churches in New York."

She sang in one concert led by world-renowned conductor Leopold Stokowski, who conducted music for the Walt Disney film 'Fantasia.'

Her duty station before she left the Navy in 1946 was at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

She returned to school upon leaving the armed forces.

"One of my friends from Ohio wanted me to go back to school so I enrolled at Kent State University," Jorene said. "My first year of college was in Ohio."

As a true Oklahoman, she later left due to the weather.

"It started snowing in April," Jorene said.

Jorene graduated from ECU with a teaching degree. She was only able to teach three years before she relocated to Tulsa where her husband Charlie Coker was working.

Jorene hoped to find another teaching job but could not.

"I had to work for one equipment company because it helped me to learn about certain areas of business," Jorene said.

Eventually, the husband and wife packed up and moved to Muskogee. While there, Jorene returned to her career interest by getting a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Education.

After this, everything came full-circle for Jorene as she returned to Okmulgee where she and Charlie settled down and built their home.

"I bought some land from my mother and that is where we built our house," Jorene said. "We wanted a place where we could fall back on."

In 1983, Jorene retired from the BIA and wanted to get involved in public service.

Jorene came up with an outlet for this along with World War II Bataan Death March survivor and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Phillip Coon, who was bemoaning the lack of recognition for Native American veterans.

"He was telling this and you could tell he was sad because there was nothing showing what the Native Americans did in WWII," Jorene said.

To help remedy this, they formed a committee named 'The Committee of Osten (Four).'

"My husband, Philip (Coon), Monroe Sulphur and me made this committee," Jorene said. "We had to work to figure out where to get the money so we could get these veterans recognized."

What came from that was a monument in the northwest corner of the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"We had ideas because we wanted our Creek veterans to be recognized," Jorene said. "We had been ignored for so long."

After her husband passed in 2005, Jorene was in despair.

"I did not know what to do. Then I told myself to keep busy," she said.

Jorene said she is gung-ho about protecting her rights due to her experiences.

She was active in the fight against the State of Texas buying Oklahoma water, where Oklahoma prevailed after Texas took the dispute to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Fortunately, the legislature had passed a bill that said Oklahoma water must stay in Oklahoma," Jorene said.

Jorene said her current focus in on environmental protection and animal rights.

"When our people killed an animal, they would give thanks to the 'Master of Breath' for providing this animal and they did not waste any of it," she said.

Jorene shared a final thought about her Nation.

"I love my tribe," she said. "We had invaders that came to us, we accommodated them and they tried to kill us but we are still here."



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leonard Harjo cuts Dillard Vaught's hair at his barbershop in Okemah. Harjo retired Sept. 10 after 60 years in the business.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen retires as barber

After 60 years, Harjo said he is ready for break

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKEMAH, Okla. — On a sunny Tuesday morning, a gentleman by the name of Dillard Vaught gets himself comfortable and takes a seat.

Another gentleman walks up to him and gets him prepared for what is about to take place.

The gentleman grabs the cape and puts it over the man who is sitting down, grabs his clippers and begins doing what he knows best, cutting hair.

Vaught asked the barber, "So, you are hanging them up?"

The barber looks at him with a smile and says, "Yes, it is time."

On Sept. 10, after 60 years in the profession, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leonard Harjo is putting the scissors and clippers down and retiring from cutting hair.

Harjo turned 87-years-old Sept. 11 and can count down to the day of how long he was a barber.

"60 years, eight months and seven days," Harjo said.

Harjo grew up south of Wetumka, and said he had to quit going to school at the young age of 12.

He said times were tough and there was not a lot of money.

"I was raised by my uncle," Harjo said. "He had two girls that did go to school but I could not go so I started working."

Harjo began working on a farm at that time. He said his starting pay was 50 cents a day.

"After my second year working on a farm, my boss gave me a raise," Harjo said. "It went up to 75 cents a day."

It was working on the farm and a trip to the doctor that made him want to change occupations.

"I got to feeling bad and could hardly breathe so I had to go to my doctor," Harjo said. "He told me I have to get off of the farm because my lungs were filling up with dirt."

At first he was nervous because that was all he knew. His doctor told him to go back to school.

"I was told to go to school," Harjo said. "I said no, that is why I quit."

He use to cut his son's hair and his doctor told him that he could go to trade school and be a barber.

He began barber school in 1955.

"I took him up on that offer," Harjo said.

After barber school, Harjo started his new career in Broken Bow.

He stayed in Choctaw country for nearly two years before he made the trip back north to his home in Wetumka.

"This is where I stayed the most years," Harjo said. "It was in Wetumka, cutting hair."

However, in 1998, Harjo made the move again and went north a few miles to Okemah, and started cutting hair there.

"I wanted to look out for people who need help. They fell on hard times and cannot afford a haircut. So I wanted to give them one. A haircut can make you feel like a better person."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leonard Harjo

Harjo said the styles of haircut and different names have evolved over the years but he had kept it basic with flattops, burrs and regular trims for haircuts.

"I was asked to give a haircut called a 'chili bowl,' " Harjo said. "At that time I didn't know what he was talking about until a young boy described it to me. Luckily I have seen a lot of boys running around with their hair like that so I knew what it was. I just didn't know the name."

Barbers have to abide by certain prices if they are to cut hair in certain counties. Harjo said that where he was at in Okemah, he could set his own price.

"A lot of people charged a certain price," Harjo said. "I wanted to keep mine a low price so I charged only $6. I got tips though so that helped."

Harjo said he grew up without a lot money so he understood what it was like to not have a lot of it.

He said that is instilled in him today and he felt that while he always could offer a hand to someone and give a free haircut when needed.

"I wanted to look out for people who need help," Harjo said. "They fell on hard times and cannot afford a haircut. So I wanted to give them one. A haircut can make you feel like a better person."

Harjo says he enjoys everything about being a barber.

He loves working inside and meeting new people and seeing the same ones that always came back to him.

"I have met a lot of people and they became friends with me over time," Harjo said. "There are some that I do not know their names but I know their faces and we can pick up a conversation where we left off from the last time they were here."

Vaught said he had been a customer of Harjo for over 12 years.

"He always holds a good conversation," Vaught said. "I enjoy getting my haircut by him and talking to him. I am going to miss him a lot."

Harjo said he hardly took anytime off from work. He always wanted to work as much as he could.

"I could not have done those years alone," Harjo said. "God made it that way to where I could work all those years."

Harjo talks about retirement and what he plans on doing.

"I am looking forward to it," Harjo said. "It is something that I have been waiting on."

Harjo said does not have a hobby but he plans on finding something new to do with his free time.

He said he use to walk three to four miles a day and then he slowed it down to one mile a day.

"I had an injury with my knee from when I was younger and it never did bother me until last year," Harjo said.

He said he plans to start walking again.

Harjo said he has been going to church his whole life and will continue.

He said he started out going to a Methodist church and then started going to a Baptist church, where he has stayed.

He always finds a church to go to on Sunday if he cannot make it to where he normally goes.

"I know my membership is at my church in Wetumka," Harjo said. "I have been going to a church east of here and I do like that church a lot. I have always been a praying man."

Harjo said there will be some things that he will miss as a barber.

"I am going to miss all the people coming in here," Harjo said. "All the different people. They made my work great."

Citizen shares passion for dance through instruction



Honey Caranzo/MNN

Children gaze at their reflection Sept. 13 while dancing at Julie's School of Dance in Coweta, Okla.

Bryant shares diverse background through diverse styles

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

COWETA, Okla. — Children eagerly rushed onto the dance floor at Julie's School of Dance located inside Living Stone Teaching Church in Coweta.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Julie Bryant, the owner and dance instructor, graduated from Oklahoma State University with a masters in physical education.

Ever since she was a little girl, Julie said she loved to dance.

Her father taught her how to dance at an early age.

"I can't ever remember not dancing because my dad was somewhat of a musician as well as an optometrist and he loved to dance. So I learned to dance from the time I could stand on his feet and dance," Julie said.

She has taught dance classes for about 45 years.

Julie said she opened up tap, ballet and jazz classes during her time at OSU.

Julie later opened a dance studio in Oklahoma City. She eventually sold her studio in Oklahoma City and said she would never teach dance again.

"I've retired from dance twice," Julie said.

In 1989, Julie moved from Oklahoma City to Nashville, Tenn.

In Nashville she started out teaching aerobics.

Eventually, Julie began teaching dance classes again and opened a studio in Nashville.

Julie ran the studio for 25 years before deciding to move back to Oklahoma.

"They say you spend three quarters of your life running away from your home and your last quarter running back to home. So I'm on that home stretch," Julie said.

Julie ran back home in hopes of staying retired this time.

"Took me two years and I was back at it again because I just couldn't stand it. I love the kids. I love the classes and everything. So we're really hoping to build classes here," she said.

It was not long before Julie saw that Coweta would be a good place to open a dance studio.

"Well Coweta really has nothing besides a gymnastics center and some sports activities. So I felt like that this was a good place to try and have some activities for the kids. Because I feel like dance, regardless whether they do anything with it or not which most of them won't, at least it helps them with their sports endeavors and it gives them something nice and fun to do," Julie said.

"I can't ever remember not dancing because my dad was somewhat of a musician as well as an optometrist and he loved to dance. So I learned to dance from the time I could stand on his feet and dance."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Julie Bryant

Bryant noticed that Coweta has a lot of elementary schools and even homeschoolers.

"Once they get into the classes, they have new friends, so this is an outlet for them to meet new people," Julie said.

Julie teaches classes for three-year-olds to adults in tap, ballet, jazz.

Jessica McKittrick teaches hip-hop and Zumba, a combination of dance and exercise.

James and Juanita Weddington teach country ballroom dancing classes.

"So we kind of have a little bit of everything for everybody," Julie said.

Julie is planning on taking her dance students to perform at Legend Assisted Living and Memory Care in Tulsa.

She also taught Zumba Sept. 15 at the MCN Diabetes Awareness Summit in Okmulgee.

Julie dance studio is also available to rent.

For more information on renting or enrolling in classes call Julie Bryant at: 918-895-3492.



Submission

Dancer/Instructor David Frank poses with girlfriend and former ballroom dancer Christina Tully during a photo shoot.

Citizen talks about his life as dancer/instructor

Frank sees participation evolve from older generations to all ages

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — At the young age of 23, Muscogee (Creek)/Seminole David Frank was not sure what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was waiting tables and during my break I was looking through the ads," Frank said. "I saw an ad that stood out to me."

What was in that ad, helped change Frank's life and started him on a journey he would have never thought of doing.

"The ad said 'Will train, no experience necessary,' " Frank said.

The ad turned out to be about ballroom dance instructors. He said when he showed up one of the ladies knew who he was right away.

At first, Frank was not sure about the ballroom style.

"At the time, I thought it was corny and didn't have the maturity to respect it," Frank said. "When I saw the ad, I said it was time for me to try this."

He was hired on the spot and his first day of learning was not what he thought it was going to be.

Frank said they put him in a room with a man who had learned a little the day before.

"We had to dance with each other," Frank said. "It was awkward."

The man taught Frank what he learned the day before, but Frank had to dance the girl part or 'follow' while the person teaching him was the 'lead.'

He said when he started out, not a lot of men would try to dance because it gave off a different perception.

But he says now when they see certain stars who dance, such as former running back Emmitt Smith and former boxer Evander Holyfield take part in it, they see that men can do it and be successful in it.

"That perception has gone away," Frank said.

Frank said that there has been a bigger popularity in dancing because of the tv show 'Dancing with the Stars.'

The show has opened up doors to people who would not have participated in these types of activities.

"With Dancing with the Stars, it has given us a new clientele," Frank said. "Most people that you would not see here are trying out dancing. I think it is great."

"That is one of the things that I love about this job. It is relaxing for me and my clients and I know I do not have to rush to get to my job. I enjoy it very much."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen David Frank

Frank said he has learned and teaches all types of dancing.

There are three different studios throughout the Oklahoma City area where he gives lessons.

"I can do ballroom lessons at certain studios and there is one studio that is nothing but Country and Western," Frank said. "So I have different places where I can give lessons."

Frank said of all the dances that he has taught, his favorite is the Foxtrot.

"It fits me," Frank said. "When you are tall and have a long stride and large frame, it works for me. It is hard to find people who can do it at a high level so I do not get to enjoy it as much."

Most of Frank's clientele are wedding couples and older people.

"With the wedding couples, they are starting their new life as a couple so they want to do that first dance right," Frank said. "With the older people, some of the women, or men who have lost their significant other and they want to get out of the house so they give dancing a try."

With the older people, Frank said they usually meet other people in the same demographics who have gone through the same thing they did so he feels they make new friends from learning something new.

Frank said he competes it is what they call Pro-Am, which combines a professional and an amateur. He is not the one being judged but it is his partner, the amateur that is looked at by the judges.

He said his favorite moment from being an instructor and a dance partner was in a similar situation to the Pro-Am event. He was not being judged but his partner was.

The DWTS show selects people from the cities and surrounding areas in where they will be performing.

He said one lady who was there could barely afford to be there, was not in any dancing attire but was very talented.

"The people with the show asked if there was anyone that wanted to try out so I grabbed this lady's hand and took her to where we would dance," Frank said.

Frank said this idea worked because she ended up being selected as one of the background dancers for DWTS.

"We get on the floor and she ends up being one of the 10 that is picked," Frank said.

Frank said it was rewarding for him because of what it did for her.

"It was after the fact that it hit me that I was there," Frank said.

Frank said he loves teaching because it is different from the normal 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday job.

He said when he wakes up in the morning he knows he does not have to rush to get to his job.

"That is one of the things that I love about this job," Frank said. "It is relaxing for me and my clients and I know I do not have to rush to get to my job. I enjoy it very much."

Frank said he feels he can teach well into his 80's like other dance teachers in the OKC area.

"I feel like I can do that and be successful," Frank said. "There are guys here who can dance and move and still teach and are amazing at doing it."

Frank said he has other projects related to dancing that he is hoping to start very soon.

"I realize the fact that I am getting up there in age so I want to do other projects with dancing and I hope to begin those fairly soon," Frank said.

For more information on dancing and taking lessons from Frank call him at: 405-430-0473.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted the annual Cultural Day for Muscogee (Creek) youth to experience Mvskoke culture Sept. 30 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Every year, schools with the Johnson O'Malley program are invited to spend a day learning about the Mvskoke culture. Youth are exposed to traditional cooking, dancing, singing as well as arts and crafts of the Mvskoke People.

Photos by: Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist







GRAPE
DUMPLINGS









Winner of the OK SPJ, Carter Bradley First Amendment & the NAJA, Elias Boudinot Free Press Awards

Nov. 1, 2016 "Ehole" Frost Month

Vol. 46, Issue 22

Annual Council Oak Ceremony held in Tulsa — Page 2

Citizen clarifies MCN officer removal procedure— Page 4



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee Nation News

TERO replacement bill postponed indefinitely during meeting



MNN File Photo

Options still being considered on Native, Creek preference law

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An amendment proposed to replace existing legislation, which sets forth requirements to encourage the Nation's use of Muscogee (Creek) and Native American labor, vendors and contractors was postponed indefinitely.

This amendment, titled 'Buy Native Act' and 'Local Hire Act' is one of several bills that have been introduced since May to fix or replace the Tribal Employment Rights Office Act.

View a breakdown and timeline at: http://mvskoke-media.com/breakdown-of-changes-proposed-to-native-preference-law/.

The motion on these acts introduced as NCA 16-138, passed 2-0 during an Oct. 20 Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee meeting at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

TERO ~ 4

Potential Broken Arrow gaming project discussed during meeting

City council informs residents of upcoming development

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Plans for a proposed restaurant and bar dancehall on an allotment owned by Steve Bruner in Broken Arrow that may involve gaming were discussed during an Oct. 18 Broken Arrow City Council meeting.

City Attorney Beth Anne Wilkening said Dave Sanders, owner of Sanders Engineering Inc., asked to meet with the city legal department about the project in August.

Wilkening said she met with Sanders, Bruner and a representative from KKT Architects, who informed her they are no longer on the project.

Wilkening said one of the first questions she asked was about gaming.

"Because you may remember there had been some quest for gaming and a lot of litigation involving the area on the other side of the Creek Turnpike on an allotment that's currently main-

Gaming ~ 4



MNN File Photo

Election Board Review Committee chairman explains purpose, goals

Inquiring body given timetable to recommend law changes

Sterling Cosper
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Review Committee Chairman Tom Burtnett shared two reasons he believes led tribal leaders to establish a body to review the MCN election process.

"There was, at that time because of the elections, there was all the talk of non-transparency in the tribe and then I think a lot of the candidates found problems when they dealt with the Election Board," he said.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' emailed MCN Election Board chairperson Diane Meeker the afternoon of Oct. 14 regarding the concerns in this article and did not receive a response as of press time.

The committee was established through TR 16-061, which passed during the May 21 MCN National Council regular session.

According to the legislation, the review committee will provide recommendations to streamline and improve the electoral process before the next election.

"The resolution just says that this committee would meet and give recommendations in January 1, 2017, to the principal chief and the attorney general and the National Council and Election Board," Burtnett said. "And then, according to the resolution, then the committee will be finished."

TR 16-167 proposing a deadline extension for the committee to March 1, 2017 received a do-pass 3-0, with Rep. Rufus Scott absent during the Oct. 10 Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting.

The Council voted on it during the Oct. 29 quarterly session, which was held after the Nov. 1 'MNN' deadline.

Review ~ 3

Citizen files petition to remove principal chief

Floyd responds to petition

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Brenda Golden filed a petition Oct. 7 to remove Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd from office alleging treason, incompetence and abuse of power.

View petition: goo.gl/9SQw32.

MCN Code Annotated Title 31 found on the MCN Supreme Court website details the proceedings for the removal of MCN officers. Mvskoke Media is working on coverage of the entire procedure.

View Title 31. http://www.creeksupremecourt.com/images/code/webver/title31.pdf

Golden stated in writing, that the principal chief has a duty to put the interest of all tribal citizens first.

Petition ~ 3

Emvponayv: One who tells the story

Mvskoke politickin', a national holiday, Council Oak

Gary Fife
Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A recent story examining the hows and whys of the reported budget deficit at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health does not paint a very pretty picture.

A breakdown of the situation by several officials drawing from multiple sources says a whole lot of money was obligated without the bucks to back it up.

So, now, we're in a situation where a number of employees were let go as part of the remedy for the fiscal pressure: http://mvskokemedia.com/health-department-conducts-employee-layoffs/. The social media outlets are full of finger pointing, name-calling and that sort of thing. There's even a petition to impeach the MCN Principal Chief James Floyd.

But, to be sure, take a look at the coverage and documents presented to make your own conclusions: http://mvskokemedia.com/oct-10-update-regarding-health-meeting-removal-petition/.

What did you do on Columbus Day?

Did you find yourself noticing how the event was being celebrated around the country? Did you go out to buy a new washer and dryer during one of the numerous 'C- Day' sales? Eat spaghetti on this special occasion? Take the day off and just be lazy?

Or…did you feel somewhat uncomfortable seeing all of this and having some idea of what that guy really did to this hemisphere and all of the peoples that were already here?

Well, a growing number of peoples of all colors have felt just that and did something about it. The number of cities changing their holiday from that older celebration to a newer 'Indigenous Peoples Day' celebration is up to around 26 or so. Are you listening Tulsa? Oklahoma City? Bug Tussle?

Our crew here had to be in

Emvponayv ~ 6



Honey Caranzo/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd spoke Oct. 15 during the 2016 Council Oak Ceremony in Tulsa, Okla.

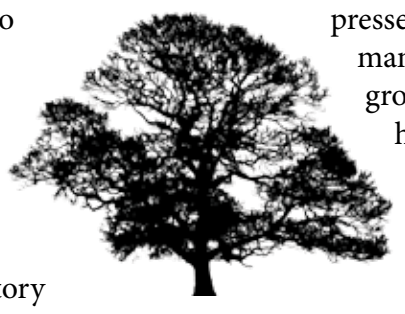
Annual Council Oak ceremony held in Tulsa

Event brings ceremonial leaders to first Mvskoke Oklahoma settlement

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The annual Council Oak ceremony was held Oct. 15 at Council Oak Park near 18th and Cheyenne in Tulsa.

According to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website and comments from the event, the history of Council Oak starts when President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830.



This lead to the removal of tribes, including the Mvskoke people from the Southeast to Indian Territory or modern day Oklahoma.

The people of Locv Pokv arrived in 1836 and held a ceremony where they placed ashes from their original ceremonial fire at the base of this oak tree.

This is where they started their new life in present day Tulsa.

During the event, MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said he was pleased about how many ceremonial leaders attended.

"We know our ancestors brought the ashes here to start Creek Nation and they are carrying out our tradition, faith and belief in the grounds," Floyd said. "I have a great deal of respect for them and I am glad to see so many of them today."

Floyd said he is impressed at how many active grounds MCN has next to other tribes.

"Over 175 years, here in Oklahoma, to know that we have 16 grounds that are still operating, and still active is a testament to our people," Floyd said.

"We have this yearly so to be able to keep having our leaders come here shows everyone that we are still here, still intact and still going strong."

— Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson

During the ceremony it was announced that mayor Dewey Bartlett could not make it to read the proclamation on Council Oak due to prior obligations.

Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson Jr. said he is pleased the tribe continues to observe traditional ways.

"We have this yearly so to be able to keep having our leaders come here shows everyone that we are still here, still intact and still going strong," Thompson said.

AARP holds annual Indian Elder Honor event

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — AARP Oklahoma hosted their annual Indian Elder Honors Oct. 10 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

During the event, 50 elders representing 29 different Oklahoma tribes and Nations were recognized.

Of these, four were selected from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, including one from Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Myrtle Denney, Rosalee (Rose) Marshall and Jon Mark Tiger from MCN were honored along with Charles Coleman from Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Tiger who has been working for MCN Elderly Nutrition for nearly 30 years said he was grateful and surprised to be recognized.

"I was notified about three weeks ago about being one of the honorees for AARP," he said. "I am really humbled about it."

Tiger said the other honorees deserved recognition and he is happy to be among them.

"I'm just proud to be a part of it," Tiger said.

AARP Oklahoma Associate State Director of Community Outreach Mashell Sourjohn is relieved the event was successful for another year.

"I hear these great remarks about how this event does," Sourjohn said. "It lets us know that we at AARP are doing a great job."

Sourjohn, who is also a citizen, said the honorees make her feel humble.

"They don't expect to get honored for the work that they do. For us at AARP, it truly is an honor to recognize the work that they do," she said.

AARP Oklahoma State Director Sean Voskuhl said it takes about a year to plan and get ready for the event.

"I read through so many of these great honorees that are being acknowledged tonight," Voskuhl said.



Darren DeLaune/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department CreekFit program debuted at the BOK Center in Tulsa, Okla., before the Oklahoma City Thunder preseason game Oct. 13 against the Memphis Grizzlies.

CreekFit featured before Thunder game

Employees, citizens exercise on BOK floor

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department usually hosts their bodyweight workout program CreekFit, at the Mvskoke Dome on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Okmulgee.

The program was featured differently this time, when it was held before an Oklahoma City Thunder preseason game Oct. 13 at the BOK Center in Tulsa against the Memphis Grizzlies.

"I feel relieved and still excited about what took place," TR Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson said. "There is still a momentum coming off of having CreekFit in Tulsa at a new place."

Johnson spoke about the motivation he saw when he was in the BOK and preparing everything for the afternoon workout.

"You start to feel that inner fire and I said to myself, 'This is really going to happen,' " Johnson said.

Thunder Teams Sales and Retention Manager Michelle Matthews said her organization and MCN have partnered for several years.

"We have now formed a partnership that has been opening up," Matthews said. "When Rojer really started the program of CreekFit through Tourism, we knew we had to give it some light, a platform."

Matthews said the preseason game in Tulsa was a good opportunity to help highlight CreekFit.

"We had an option to do CreekFit here in Tulsa which is closer to Creek jurisdiction," Matthews said. "We were able to get them here to showcase all of the programs with CreekFit."

Matthews spoke about partnerships the Thunder have with several Native American tribes throughout Oklahoma.

"There is still a momentum coming off of having CreekFit in Tulsa at a new place."

— MCN Tourism and Recreation, Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson

"What it means to us is that we make sure we have local ties, grassroots, to the people that this state means so much to," Matthews said. "We want to be on the same page and we want to be on the same team."

Johnson said the promotional event has paid off.

"A lot of people are asking what is next," Johnson said. "So we are going to keep pushing the envelope and we will see."

For more information on CreekFit call TR at: 918-732-7984.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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NAJA
Native American Journalist Association
Members of the Native American Journalists Association

Petition

Continued from page 1

'This petition covers many items of concern under Treason and Misdemeanors of High Crimes as the causes for removal. Make no mistake, this is not about who is to blame for any alleged financial wrongdoing or budget shortfall. This effort goes beyond blaming anyone for the current supposed financial crisis of the Nation.'

Floyd gave Mvskoke Media a written statement in response to the petition.

'I support the constitutional right of all citizens, including the right to initiate petitions as provided under the constitution.

'The constitution also provides me the authority as Principal Chief to lead the Executive Branch of the Nation. My focus continues to be in moving this Nation in a positive direction.'

MCN Code Annotated Title 31, Section 1-104 states that treason, 'shall include conspiracy to violate the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.'

The petition alleges Floyd conspired with members of the National Council in the violation of MCN Constitution Article V., Section 2(c) by appointing commissioned officers for longer than the limitations outlined in the Constitution, and has shown incompetence because cabinet positions have gone unfilled or filled with unqualified individuals.

According to the MCN Constitution available on the MCN Supreme Court website, Article V., Section 2(c) states, 'The Principal Chief shall have the power to fill vacancies by granting commissions which shall expire at the beginning of the next National Council meeting.'

View Constitution: www.creeksupremecourt.com/index.php/mcn-constitutiion.

MCN Public Relations Director Geebon Gouge referred to NCA 16-072, passed by Council April 30 with a vote of 14-0. According to Mvskoke Media coverage of the Council session, NCA 16-072 amended NCA 13-045.

The Code states commissions expire as such to preserve the balance of power intended by the confirmation process and to ensure that commissions are not used as a substitution for this, limitations on the timetable allowed for recomissioning is needed.

The amendment changed the period allowed to recommission the same individual for a cabinet position from three to six Council sessions stating that 180 days should be ample time for full confirmation and that the Council will not recognize any individual commissioned past this period.

View 'Legislation extending cabinet commissions passes during Council session:' www.mvskokemedia.com/legislation-extending-cabinet-commissions-passes-during-council-session/.

The petition states Floyd conducted a mass layoff of employees without prior notice or due process, and that closing facilities and reducing services has jeopardized the health system and negatively affected citizens' health needs.

It also states that Floyd has turned Self-Governance and Self-Determination programs over to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and caused the Nation to lose tribal sovereignty.

The petition states Floyd has contracted individuals who have not acted in the best interest of the Nation and states that he is being investigated for mismanagement while he worked as the Veterans Affairs Medical Center director.

Floyd discussed working for VAMC in previous Mvskoke Media coverage, and also discussed an issue that was reported by KJRH involving a pregnant veteran who lost her unborn child.

View 'Principal chief-elect discusses initial outlook' on page one of the Dec. 15, 2015 edition.

Gouge referred to MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 4 titled, 'Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Systems,' and stated this section places the MCN Department of Health under the executive branch's authority.

Section 4-103 of the title states, 'The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health shall be a division within the Executive Branch of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in accordance with Title 16, Section 1-102 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Laws established to provide inpatient, outpatient and emergency health care, rehabilitative services, and other health-related services within the boundaries of the Nation to citizens of the Nation and other health consumers.'

View Title 22: www.creeksupremecourt.com/images/code/webver/title22.pdf.

MCNCA Title 16, Section 1-102 references the Reorganization Plan of 2004 and how the executive branch is structured.

View Title 16: www.creeksupremecourt.com/images/code/webver/title16.pdf.

Gouge also referred to MCN Supreme Court Case Ellis v. National Council from Feb. 20, 2006. Gouge quotes the case in the written response, 'the head of the Executive Branch, the Principal Chief continues to have the authority to deal with all Executive branch employment decisions, except over independent agencies as will be discussed infra; including but not limited to all appointments as set out in the Constitution of this Nation and any laws that the National Council shall enact.

'It is also the function of the Executive Branch to continue to deal with its internal employment decisions, excluding those employment decisions over independent agencies.'

View Ellis v. National Council, which Mvskoke Media obtained from PR: goo.gl/ZRIUcy.

The petition also states Floyd has violated Code regarding Muscogee (Creek) and Native preference when hiring and recalling laid off employees, and states that employees were not provided due process, and were to be given a hearing before being laid off.

It also states Floyd did not communicate with citizens and requests feedback on how to best handle the situation.

Golden has until 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 to turn in the petition with 3,431 signatures of registered voters to the National Council secretary to be considered.

Golden can be contacted at: brenda_golden@msn.com, or at: 918-758-6773.

Review

Continued from page 1

Stay tuned for coverage.

He said their limited timetable led them to set meetings at least twice a month, which are typically held the second and last Tuesday of each month.

"Then, since we're three months behind, they signed it at the end of May, then that would have formed the committee in June," Burtnett said.

He said the December meetings will be held on the sixth and 20th due to the holidays.

Burtnett encouraged citizens to attend and participate.

"And we just don't want to be five citizens putting together these things but having input from the citizens," he said. "And the more active participation we have, I think the stronger that we would have a chance when the final report is given…"

The agendas and more information about the committee can be viewed on their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/Title19/.

The committee consists of five Muscogee (Creek) citizens, two selected by the principal chief, two by the Council and one by the Election Board. The members did not require confirmation by tribal resolution.

The principal chief appointments are Burtnett and Shirley Almerigi. The Council's are Sandi Golden and Richard Anderson and the Election Board's is Famous Marshall.

The original legislation assigned the fifth board member as a Carter Center Democracy Program designee. The center was previously considered by tribal resolution to review the process during election season last year.

The law states the committee is to confer with parties involved in elections at the tribe on a regular basis and make written reports once a month and oral reports quarterly to HEW.

Burtnett said the committee will focus their recommendations on MCN Code Annotated Title 19, titled 'Elections.'

The Title 19 chapters pertain to:

Primary and general elections
Organization of the Election Board and precinct election committees
General administration
Registration
Candidacy for office
Ballots
Conduct of elections
Certifications and contests
Special elections
Absentee voting
Constitutional amendments
Criminal violations
Penalties and amending the title

"We had a charge among all of us that we had to go through Title 19, all 14 sections of it and then rank each subsection in it as far as if it's going to have to be addressed in the committee or if it's something that regardless of what we come up with it will probably be OK," Burtnett said.

According to Article 6, Section 6 of the MCN Constitution, laws in the Code are amended through Council majority vote followed by approval from the principal chief. This is unless the amendment is vetoed in which case this can be overridden by a two-thirds majority vote of the full Council.

Burtnett outlined some of his personal priorities such as the cost and efficiency of the election process, voter participation initiatives as well as communication with the public and candidates.

Burtnett said he is concerned about the level of citizen participation.

"The other thing, voter registration, are the number of citizens out of the 80,000, that vote is so low," he said. "I mean we had out of 17,000 registered voters in the 2016 election, had about 5,000 votes."

Burtnett referred to Title 19, subsection 4-104, which sets forth a registrar process for the Election Board Staff manager.

'Said voter registrars shall be located in such a manner geographically as to provide convenient access for all qualified electors of the county,' it states.

Election Board Staff Manager Nettie Harjo stated by email that they set up this process near election time and that her office does not currently have a list of registrars, which have to be registered voters of the tribe themselves.

'We normally use a precinct worker from each district but usually closer to Election,' she stated. 'Any citizen can come in and request to be a registrar.'

Burtnett said he supports a plan to increase participation initially presented by MCN Election Board member Vernon Courtwright in a letter published June 17 by Mvskoke Media.

'Fewer and fewer citizens are actually going to District polling sites and Absentee voters have decided virtually Every Election, in recent history.

'Years ago, the Election Board visited the Chickasaw Nation whose elections have been total Absentee for years and they experience voter participation regularly in the 40% range and sometimes more! In the Creek Nation, 14% is about average,' Courtwright stated.

Burtnett said he also wants to see how this would affect the cost of holding elections.

"And we have very high costs in the elections because we have 18 precincts and the number of people that have to be used for a primary and general in those precincts," he said. "And then the service that does it, you know they have to provide all the computers and voting booths and everything for those 18 precincts."

Burtnett said he is concerned that the Election Board only posts their meeting agendas on a bulletin board in the Solomon McCombs Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"And I think they do that because they think that they're fulfilling the Code but how many of the citizens walk into the McCombs Building on a monthly basis?

"And how many of the citizens that are outside the boundaries are going to ever see an agenda? And they never post it on their Election Board website or the section in the tribal website," he said.

'MNN' asked the Election Board staff for the Board meeting agendas to begin posting them to its Facebook page and they have been provided in September and October.

Burtnett said he believes the Board member confirmation process needs to be changed to where the principal chief and Council are not involved.

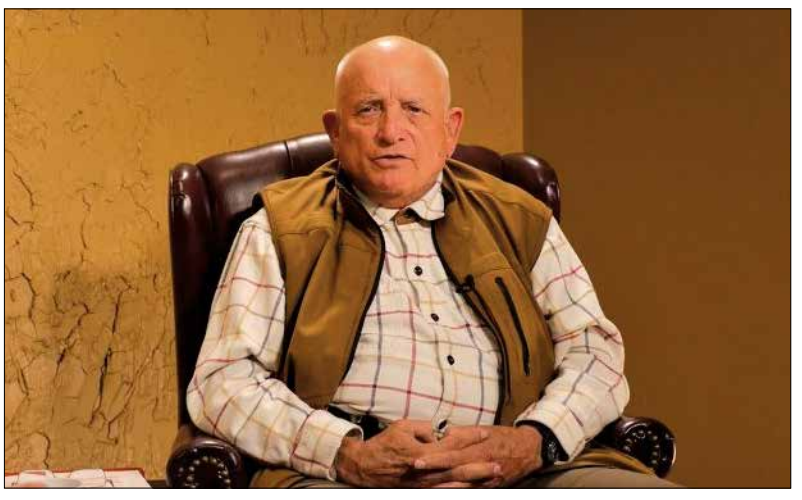
"Well they're not going to do anything then that would adversely affect their relationship with those people you know?

"So the way the Board is set up, I do not think that is to the benefit of the everyday citizen the way the Board is set up. That would require a change in the Constitution and Title 19," he said.

Besides confirmation, Article 4 of the MCN Constitution determines the process for voter eligibility, ballots as well as election outcomes and dates. There are several ways set forth in the Constitution on how to amend it, all of which involve citizen approval.

"I may point out that they may be an independent agency, but anything that exists with Muscogee (Creek) Nation today, exists for one reason and that is the citizens," Burtnett said. "And the citizens have the power to get rid of or change anything about Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Citizen clarifies MCN officer removal procedure



'Native News Today'

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Patrick Moore discussed the laws regarding the removal of an MCN officer.

Former District Court judge discusses process

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Patrick Moore discussed the laws Oct. 13 regarding the removal of an MCN officer.

Moore served as a MCN District Court judge for 25 years.

He said an MCN tribal officer has never been impeached through the process outlined in the MCN Constitution and Code Annotated.

MCN Constitution Article VIII is titled, 'Removal of Officers.' Section 2 states, 'A signed petition showing cause of removal containing 20 percent of registered voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be cause to consider removal of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and/or any member of the Supreme Court.'

View the Constitution: www.creeksupremecourt.com/index.php/mcn-constitutiion.

The current petition to remove MCN Principal Chief James Floyd states that the total number of registered voters is 17,157 and that the petition will require 3,431 registered voters to sign the petition to move on to the next step.

According to the petition, the deadline to turn in these signatures to the National Council secretary is Dec. 6 by 5 p.m.

View 'Citizen files petition to remove principal chief.'

"Once a petition has a sufficient amount of signatures and is turned in within the timeframe that's specified in the statutes, then the National Council and the Election Board, along with the District (Court) judge, will get together and have a meeting whereby they verify each and every signature and address and citizenship of persons who have signed the petition," Moore said.

"...then the National Council and the Election Board, along with the District (Court) judge, will get together and have a meeting whereby they verify each and every signature and address and citizenship of persons who have signed the petition."

— Former MCN District Court Judge Patrick Moore

If the number of signatures that are required are verified, then the Council will declare impeachment proceedings.

Proceedings are described in MCNCA Title 31, Section 1-105.

View Title 31: www.creeksupremecourt.com/images/code/webver/title31.pdf.

Moore said the Council will select seven members from themselves at random to serve on the impeachment committee.

A special prosecutor is hired to investigate the matter, and the committee will review the petition's allegations.

MCNCA Title 31, Section 1-105, A2 states regarding the committee, 'whose purpose shall be to examine charges, investigate activities, and examine evidence for cause of removal as the Directive shall state.'

"The National Council has specified exactly what you must be charged with in order for the petition to be valid," Moore said.

Title 31, Section 1-104 describes causes for removal including treason, bribery and high crimes and misdemeanors.

If the committee determines the items in the petition reasonable for impeachment, the full Council will convene in an impeachment trial, over which an MCN Supreme Court justice will preside.

According to the Code, the Supreme Court chief justice will oversee an impeachment trial for the principal chief.

Moore said the trial mimics a state trial with a Supreme Court justice acting as judge, and the Council acting as the jury to decide the verdict.

He said in order to remove a principal chief from office, 75 percent of the Council must vote in favor of removal.

MCN Constitution Article VIII, Section 2 states, 'A three-fourths vote of the National Council shall be required for removal from office.'

"If the principal chief is impeached, he's removed from office immediately and the second chief is sworn in at that meeting," Moore said.

Article V, Section 1(c) of the Constitution states, 'In the case of vacancy, whether by removal, death, or resignation of the Office of Principal Chief, the line of succession shall be the Second Chief who shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for the Principal Chief.'

TERO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Reps. Robert Hufft, David Hill, Adam Jones, Pete Beaver and Randall Hicks are on BFJ.

Jones was absent until the 'Other Business' portion of the agenda and Hicks was excused. Hufft is the chairperson, which commonly does not vote unless there is a tie.

In an email reply to the 'Muscogee Nation News' inquiring about the motion, Hill said Hufft is working with the Executive Branch.

'There is a Legislation Bill concerning TERO, whether to remove it or keep it, Rep. Hufft is working with Chief and Mr Greg Anderson for a propose TERO Legislation or something similar. Until the outcome of that Legislation will be the decision maker to have this Legislation readdressed in the future,' he stated.

(This was updated with comments from Hill after initial online publication, which afforded him about two hours to reply.)

MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger gave a brief summary of how NCA 16-138 would have affected Native/Creek preference during the Sept. 14 BFJ meeting.

"I think what the new law that is being proposed is going to allow that to be looked at on a case-by-case basis," he said.

NCA 16-138 was previously postponed for one month during the Sept. 14 BFJ meeting on a motion from Hill who said he wanted to wait on the outcome of another amendment, NCA 16-123 that is solely intended to repeal TERO.

NCA 16-123, sponsored by Rep. Dode Barnett, was postponed for two months during the Sept. 24 Council regular session.

During the regular session, Barnett voted in favor of postponing the repeal legislation and had also introduced NCA 16-147 proposing fixes to the law during the Sept. 12 Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting.

NCA 16-147 did not get a second motion to be addressed during the Sept. 12 meeting.

In an interview with 'Native News Today' published Sept. 22, Barnett said she thought the Buy Native and Local Hire Acts did not have enough teeth.

According to the version of MCN Code Annotated on the MCN Supreme Court website, laws with the same name as the Buy Native and Local Hire Acts were in place prior to TERO, which was enacted by legislation in 2012.

During a Sept. 12 Council extraordinary session, MCN Secretary of the Interior Chris Azbell said the cost for construction jobs has increased due to the limited number of TERO certified contractors.

"If you look at any contract info, when you bid out a job like that, since TERO has been in place, the number of people who are actually bidding on our jobs has continued to dwindle," Azbell said.

NCA 16-123 aimed at repealing TERO, will be readdressed during the Nov. 19 Council regular session.

Stay tuned for further developments on this bill and any other information related to TERO.

The summary of each bill is attributed to language in the legislation. It is also based on 'MNN' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability. For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Gaming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tained by Marcella Giles and Wynema Capps," she said.

The National Indian Gaming Commission ruled in summer 2012 that gaming was not allowed on the property in this previous case.

Wilkening said that she was told the current primary plans were for the restaurant and bar dancehall.

"They did emphasize that if they were going to do gaming, it would be at sometime in the future," she said.

Wilkening said the issue was not an actionable item on the meeting agenda but rather an opportunity to inform the public.

"I had discussions with the city manager about this particular project and he and I both felt very strongly that it was important to be very transparent in this process and also provide notification to our citizens about the potential for this," she said.

Wilkening said the city invited those involved with the project to speak at the meeting but they did not attend.

"I got the impression from some of the emails we've exchanged that they're kind of still in a preliminary design," she said. "So my impression is that they'll be making an announcement to the public sometime in the future."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Lucian Tiger was on the agenda to speak but did not attend.

"I was advised that he was going to be here," Wilkening said. "It's my understanding that he wanted to communicate to the council and to the community that gaming has not been sanctioned on this particular piece of property. This was in an email exchange I saw prior to when I came in."

Jerad Cawley with Broken Arrow Citizens Against Neighborhood Gaming who was involved in an effort against the previous gaming project said he received similar information from MCN officials.

"We have several contacts with the Creek Nation as well and they are assuring us that no discussions have been had with them to approve any gaming on that particular lot currently at this time.

"And they assured us that as the federal court found, the National Indian Gaming Commission and the Department of the Interior, that those lands are Muscogee (Creek) lands and only that tribe can approve gaming on that site," he said.

Wilkening said she told Bruner that any gaming would have to go through the appropriate process.

"It would have to be in compliance with the compact and that we would really like the project to be just what it is," she said.

Wilkening said Bruner told her that the development contract he has mandates compliance with the law and any gaming conducted would be handled properly.

Wilkening said she encouraged Cawley and Bruner to meet and discuss the project.

Cawley said he was not against the restaurant and bar portion and would encourage it as a local business.

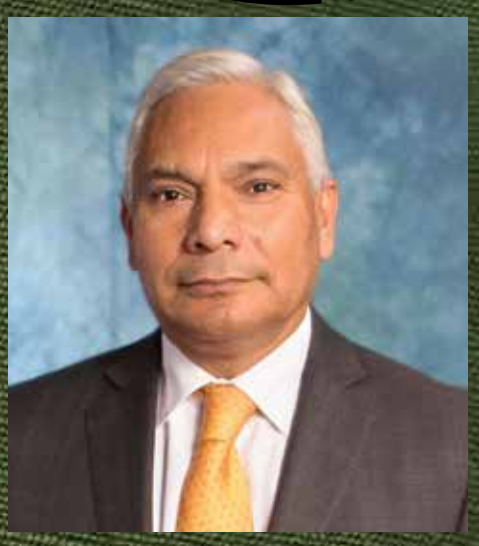
"I would just ask that Mr. Bruner be up front with us and work with us and continue to talk to us so that the neighbors in the area can feel comforted and assured that this is not going to turn into a casino," he said.

Wilkening said that at this point the only official business the city has with the project involves and access point to the property off of city streets.

She said that she was told there is no plan to use city utilities and that the developers would use the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department and fire services provided through the tribe.

Wilkening said there might be potential for them to use city emergency medical services.

CHOW AND CHAT



Principal Chief Floyd



Second Chief Hicks

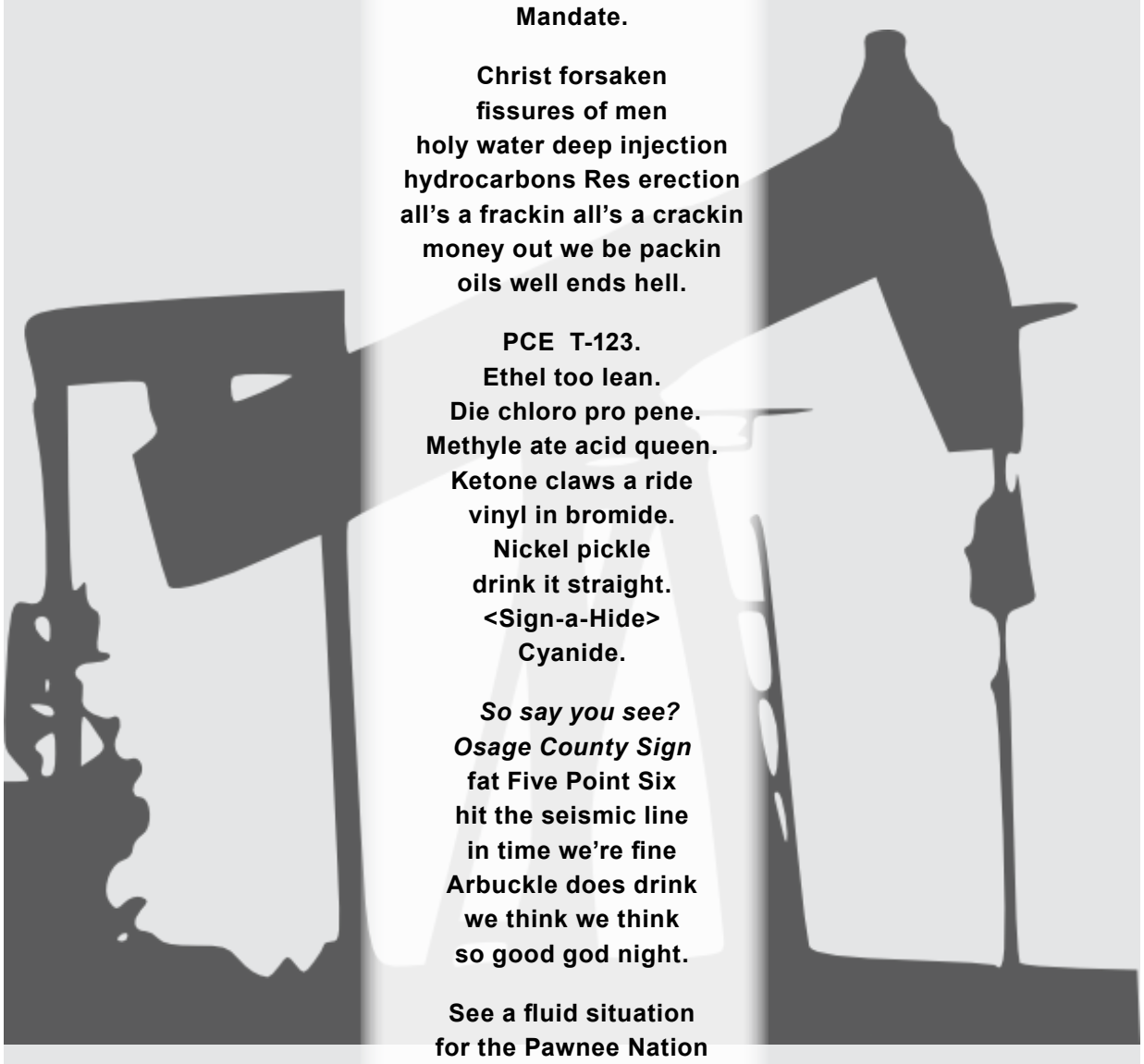
WITH THE CHIEFS

"All Hands" special invitation to celebrate Veterans Day 2016
10 November 2016
1100 – 1400
The Mvskoke Dome
located inside the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex

- Desiring to render respect & appreciation, our Chiefs invite Muscogee veterans for a day of chow and chat on our special day set aside by proclamation to honor all veterans – Veterans Day.
- "Chow and Chat" will be held inside the Mvskoke Dome at the MCN's Claude Cox Omniplex.
- 10 November 2016 (Thursday)
- 1100 – 1230 – Chow
- 1230 – 1400 – Meet, greet and chat with our Chiefs, Share some quiet time with our Chiefs. Allow our Chiefs to get to know you – Muscogee veteran.
- Please wear your MCN veteran's vest.
- **DUE TO EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, AND LACK OF SPACE, VETERANS ONLY PLEASE.**
- Please RSVP by 1700 on 4 November 2016 (Friday) in order to get an accurate count for chow, tables and chairs.
- Please call VASO at either (918) 732-7739, or (918) 732-7745.

Arbuckle's Fault

Steve Braff/*Non-Citizen*
Los Olivos, Calif.



Sat Morning Slate-
Some Big Ass Quake!
Okie brokie belt buckles
do the Pawnee shop hustle
tumble rumble rock break
Gov. Fallin bit late
Shut the Wells!
Mandate.

Christ forsaken
fissures of men
holy water deep injection
hydrocarbons Res erection
all's a frackin all's a crackin
money out we be packin
oils well ends hell.

PCE T-123.
Ethel too lean.
Die chloro pro pene.
Methyle ate acid queen.
Ketone claws a ride
vinyl in bromide.
Nickel pickle
drink it straight.
<Sign-a-Hide>
Cyanide.

So say you see?
Osage County Sign
fat Five Point Six
hit the seismic line
in time we're fine
Arbuckle does drink
we think we think
so good god night.

See a fluid situation
for the Pawnee Nation
drill bitty generation
we turney turn turn
big bore agitation
Mobile spins BP
on Chevrons V
let Xx be On
or cheap gas
gone.

Notes

- On Saturday, Sept. 3, Oklahoma experienced its largest earthquake on record. The magnitude 5.8 quake (initially reported at 5.6) struck in Osage County- home of the Pawnee Nation.

- Scientists and regulators agree that this earthquake and thousands of smaller ones in recent years have been spurred by the re-injection of wastewater from fracking into the ground. Oklahoma is now experiencing approximately 600 earthquakes per year of magnitude 3.0 or greater. Prior to 2008, Oklahoma averaged less than two per year.

- Fracking forces into each injection well approximately three million gallons of a water, sand, and chemical slurry deep into the earth under high pressure to crack open underground rock fissures, forcing deposits of oil and gas to the surface. The polluted flow-back wastewater from the fracking process may be recycled, sent to a treatment plant, or re-injected into a deep water well.

- Oklahoma's Arbuckle Formation is host to over 35 billion gallons per year of fracking wastewater. One percent of that wastewater - approximately 350 million gallons - is a toxic mix of any one or more of 230 volatile organic compounds (VOCs). 93 percent of these chemicals have known adverse health effects, 60 percent are known carcinogens, and 40 percent are endocrine disruptors responsible for adverse developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune effects in both humans and wildlife. Even short-term exposure to VOCs can lead to confusion, rapid pulse, anemia, and death. Under current law, the industry is not required to disclose the VOCs they use.

- "We have no data whatsoever on oil and gas activity in Osage County," Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner (State's oil and gas regulator) Matt Skinner told 'Associated Press,' "We don't know how many [wells]. We don't know how deep. We know nothing about them." A couple other things we don't know about the Arbuckle: Why is the formation "under-pressured" and able to absorb so much water at a lower injection pressure? Does it leak?

- The state of Oklahoma has declared a state of emergency and ordered the shutdown of 17 wells. Halting or slowing the use of disposal wells won't necessarily resolve the seismic issues. Scientists studying the issue report that even if Oklahoma shuttered all its disposal wells, the wastewater that has already been pumped may continue to cause problems.

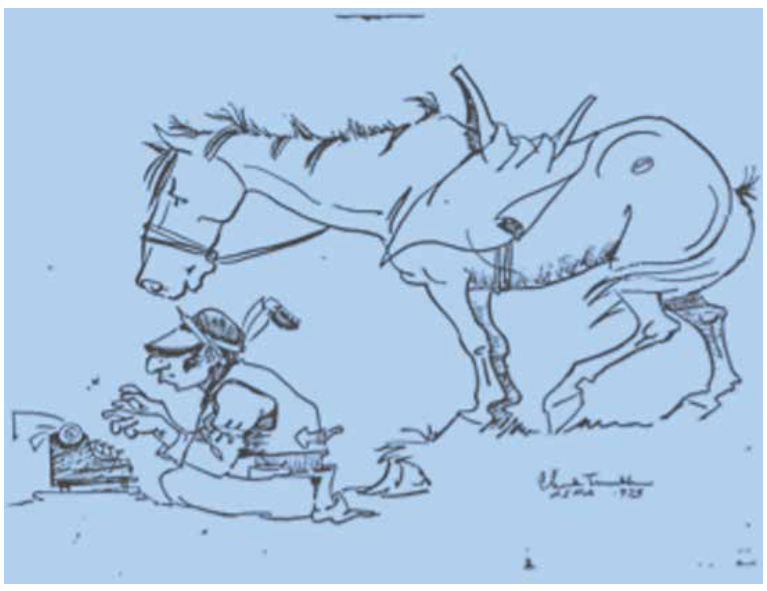
- Fracking is currently practiced in 31 states.

- TODAY: Thursday, Sept. 8, as of 5:34 p.m. Central Standard Time, four more quakes hit northwestern Oklahoma with magnitudes of 2.5 outside Pawnee at 12 p.m.; 3.6 outside Perry at 2:29 p.m.; 2.9 outside Stillwater at 2:38 p.m.; 3.6 outside Perry at 2:29 p.m.; 3.0 outside Stillwater at 2:34 p.m…

Steve Braff's poetry has been published in 'Doorpost' and the 'Muryoko Journal of Shin Buddhism,' and he is honored to be selected for 'Nomad's Choir' forthcoming 2017 issue. He can be reached at stevebraff1@gmail.com.

Emvponayv

Continued from page 1



the office. Oh, well.

While we're on that subject, do you remember who Amerigo Vespucci was? It'll help when you read this ditty.

'Oh, Columbus sailed the ocean blue,

in fourteen hundred, ninety-two.

He named this place after one of his crew.

Glad it's not 'Vespucci-land' for me and you.'

— (*Author in hiding*)

Imagine being called a 'Vespuccian Indian?'

When I attended Northeastern (it was still a college then), I once suggested that one of the Indian student artists there come up with a new logo to replace the old ugly Redmen face. I was nearly tarred and feathered and run out of town on a rail.

Now they are celebrating the change to 'Indigenous Day.' Yea!

Remember Chris Benge, the Cherokee guy who is former Oklahoma secretary of state and Native American liaison? Well, he got kicked upstairs to Gov. Mary Fallin's chief of staff. As a new 'chief,' does he take the Native American concerns to a higher level?

Well, I guess as part of his international duties, he has to be aware of some basics in a number of different cultures.

The 'Tulsa World' reported that Benge essentially told the Russians 'Nyet (no)' when they asked to monitor elections in Oklahoma. Way to go! (The Russians should try watching tribal elections. That would make them think twice about that idea.)

Mary Annette Pember of 'Indian Country Today' reported the first baby born at the water protector camp in North Dakota. Zintkala Mahpiya Wi Blackowl (SkyBird Woman) gave birth Oct. 12 in a tipi pitched at one of the water protector camps.

The multi-cultural campers are resisting any further construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline, near Cannonball, N.D. I guess their camp really is a village now with this birth.

There are committees now taking a look at the Election Board and the Tribal Employment Rights Office.

TERO has been under some close examination for how efficiently it puts more Muscogee (Creek)/Native American citizens/companies to work.

And…there has always been 'water-cooler' talk about the Election Board being a closed-door type of operation. That should be examined.

'To be sure, take a look at the coverage and documents presented to make your own conclusions.'

— Gary Fife

The annual Council Oak ceremony was conducted Oct. 15 in Tulsa.

The event honored the living link to establishment of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and later, the City of Tulsa.

One of the highlights was eight-year-old Kaylen Mack of the Fishpond Ceremonial Ground giving the opening call. It was so nice to see this young man carrying on Mvskoke traditions.

Getting ready for penwv? It's that time of year for turkey. I'd settle for more Indian tacos.

Hmmm. I wonder if anyone has ever tried an Indian turkey taco? Nah, it just wouldn't be the same.



Hvtvm Cehecares — Later.

Bingo and food sale set Nov. 4

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a bingo and food sale event for 6 p.m., Nov. 4 at the TCIC community center, 8611 S. Union Ave Tulsa 74132.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.

Euchee heritage Festival set Nov. 4-5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Euchee/Yuchi Heritage Festival has been set Nov. 4-5 at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Events will be held 6:30 - 11 p.m., Nov. 4 and 12 p.m. – 12 a.m., Nov. 5.

For more information, including that for vendors call Kathy at: 918-695-0195, Felix at: 918-504-0215 or Wade at: 918-378-9385.

Coordinators are not responsible for accidents or theft and no drugs or alcohol are allowed.

Family potluck dinner set for Nov. 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — A Franks and Fixco memorial family potluck dinner has been set 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Nov. 5 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

Meat dishes will be provided.

There will be a drawing for gifts and attendees are encouraged to bring an item to give to the winners. There will also be a Seminole/Creek language word game.

For more information call Susie Wind at: 405-712-9983.

Vet recognition day set Nov. 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A veterans recognition day event has been set 2 p.m., Nov. 6 at Belvin Baptist Church, 320 N. Mission, Okmulgee 74447. The event will include a mixer, singing, a speaker, supper and more.

For more infomation call: 918-756-0961.

Benefit stompdance set Nov. 12

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Big Cussetah United Methodist Church has set an indoor benefit stompdance from 6-10 p.m., Nov. 12 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

All proceeds will go towards the Big Cussetah UMC fund.

MCN Head Start participates in USDA food care program

MCN Head Start/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. All participants are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, nation origin, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities).

If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA program discrimination complaint form found online at: www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or write a letter containing the information requested and send it to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, fax it to: 202-690-7442 or email it to program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at: 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fall revival set for Nov. 13-16

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Belvin Baptist Church has set a revival for 7 p.m. nightly, Nov. 13-16 at the church, 320 N. Mission in Okmulgee.

For transportation leave a message at: 918-777-1345

MVTO

The Sam Fry Jr. family would like to thank: Integrity Funeral Home; Revs. Amon Harjo, John Wayne Tulsa and Sidney Lee; Yardeka Indian Baptist Church members for use of their fellowship hall; Hickory Ground #2 Church members; Hickory Ground Ceremonial members; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard; MCN Tribal Driveways; MCN Social Services; Rick Baker Jr. for use of the family cemetery; Debbie Buckendorf Cole of New York City; Pat Powell for purchasing groceries; a special Mvto to Jerry 'Sib' Sumka and Skippy Fields; and to those who brought food, flowers, pictures and to all of his nieces, grandnieces, great-grandnieces, nephews, grandnephews, great-grandnephews for stepping up to help in any way they could. Kosa FeKseKoce was a World War II veteran and oldest member of oce opvfe (Hickory Ground). Mvto again from the family.



Mvskoke Youth Opportunity Grant

MCN Public Relations/Release

The Mvskoke Youth Opportunity Grant is a once per fiscal year (Oct. 1 –Sept. 30) grant to assist Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens, up to the age of 24 to participate in activities and opportunities that are not specifically a part of the school curriculum. Examples includes, but are not limited to: leadership opportunities, athletic, the arts, music, rodeo, agriculture, cultural activities, etc. The grant can assist with In-State, Out-of-State, and International opportunities. Grants will not exceed half of the total cost and will not exceed the maximum for each level. All athletic related opportunities are limited to a maximum of $250, not to exceed half of the total cost. Clients can apply online at www.tinyurl.com/YSGrant or can be assisted by phone if they do not have access to the internet. Please see the attached flyer for more details and post in your offices. Contact the Youth Services office at 918-549-2557 or YouthServices@mcn-nsn.gov for more details.

Native Bible study offered by mail

Discovery Bible School is offering a free Bible study by and for Natives called Native New Day. They are sent by mail and those who are interested may contact us at PO Box 14208, Tulsa, OK 74159.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa, Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). $200 compensation ($100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our website at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

BOBBY BARNES

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bobby Barnes was born July 3, 1950 and went to be with his heavenly father Nov. 25, 2015 at the age of 65.

He was baptized at Salt Creek Baptist Church in Wetumka and also belonged to Kialegee Tribal Town.

He lived in Oklahoma City most of his life and graduated from Classen High School. After graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1970.

He was wounded by shrapnel while in Vietnam and returned home with the Purple Heart.

After returning home from his active duty in the 1st Calvary Division, he continued his education and enrolled at Rose State College.

He also joined the National Guard Armory of the 45th Infantry Division in Oklahoma City. After several years, he transferred to the Army National Guard Unit in Holdenville where he retired with many years of service.

Bobby was employed at Tinker Air Force Base for five years as a structural mechanic. Afterward, he joined the National Roofers Union and the Oklahoma Roofers Union Local #143.

His aunt and uncle Betty and Archie Hotulke raised Bobby along with his brother and sister.

Bobby was preceded in death by his: wife, Jean and natural father, George Barnes.

He is survived by his: sons, Bobby Barnes of and Shylon Barnes both of Del City; brother, Wallace Barnes and wife, Shilley of Glenpool; sister, Carolyn Barnes of Tulsa; grandchildren, Brandon Barnes of Tulsa, Stiomie Barnes Hart and husband Darrius, Taron Barnes, Savanna Barnes and Jaiden Barnes.

Memorial services were held at the Barnes Family Cemetery Dec. 3, 2015 in Wetumka.

RUTH FULTZ



BEGGS, Okla. — Ruth Nell Fultz was born Feb. 4, 1942 in Beggs to John Fultz Sr. and Wilma [Brinkley] Fultz. She was the sixth of 11 children in the family. Ruth accepted Christ at an early age and united with Shorter Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She graduated from Historic Dunbar High School with the Class of 1960 in Okmulgee. Ruth later attended Langston University in Langston to pursue nursing. After a year of college, she married her high school sweetheart Oscar Henry Robinson II on July 10, 1961. To this union, three children were born. Oscar Henry Robinson III, Orick Henri Robinson and Raithiele Jon Robinson.

Ruth and Oscar joined the Peace Corp after he graduated from Langston University. They both attended Minnesota University to prepare for their Peace Corp tour of duty in Pakistan. She moved to Gardena, Calif., in 1964 and Oscar joined her in California after completion of his Peace Corp tour of duty.

In California, she attended both California State University in Long Beach, Calif., and Compton Junior College in Compton, Calif., while working for the telephone company and in the banking industry.

In the late 1980's, she was employed with the Internal Revenue Service, where she worked in multiple capacities, her last as an advocate until medically retiring in April 2003.

Ruth truly loved her family and friends. She was known to have relatives and neighborhood kids over to her house in California for swimming in the back yard, where she would provide food, make homemade ice cream and provide entertainment too.

She was also known for her Mexican food, burritos and enchiladas, her German chocolate and carrot cakes 'from scratch' during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays by both relatives and friends.

In addition, she also had a stamp on Soul Food, including greens, sweet potato pies, beef oxtails and homemade cornbread.

Ruth Nell Fultz Robinson departed this earthly life Sept. 26, 2016.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; brothers, Melvin and Lyndell 'Pete;' sister, Donna 'Tiny' and her eldest son, Oscar.

She leaves to cherish her memory: sons, Orick and Raithiele, both of Okmulgee; granddaughter, Aaliyah Renee Robinson; sisters, Johnnie Mae Rice of Soboba, Calif., Mary Brown of Long Beach, Calif., Gladys Turner, Los Angeles, Debra Davis, Lynwood, Calif., and Brenda Hickmon of Okmulgee; brothers, John and Kenneth Fultz of Okmulgee; along with other relatives and friends.

The Sacred Farewell commenced Oct. 8, 2016 in the Shorter Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Michael Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, Rev. Dr. Roger O. Alford, Presiding Elder and Rev. Monica T. Bailey officiated.

The Christian Committal will follow in the Okmulgee Cemetery.

LAHOMA LANGSTON

GLENPOOL, Okla. — LaHoma (Burgess) Langston, 96, was born in Broken Arrow Dec. 31, 1919 to Tyler and Mima Burgess. She passed away Oct. 3, 2016.

She grew up in the Broken Arrow area and graduated from Chilocco Indian School in 1937. She married Lawrence Langston in 1939.

She was a homemaker and lived in the area encompassing Sapulpa, Glenpool and Jenks most of her life.

She was active in the community through the Tibbens Homemakers club for 52 years, a blood bank volunteer for the Sapulpa Red Cross for 25 years and was a member of the Jenks First United Methodist Church.

She was residing at the Glennwood Healthcare Center in Glenpool at the time of her death.

She is survived by: children, Linda (Jerry) Taylor of Denver Colo., Larry Dan (Paula) Langston of Oklahoma City and Don Langston of Ottawa Kan.; daughter-in-law, Betty Langston of Jenks; special friend and companion, Wally Harrison; 16 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her: husband; parents; sisters, Pauline Fletcher, Lou McHenry, Chris Lanier, Leda Vee Bruner and Maxine Tyler; brothers, Willis, Yahola and Daniel Burgess; son, Richard Langston; grandson, Philip Langston; daughter-in-law, Pam Langston; grandson, Brian Cole and great-grandson, Skylar Adair.

Funeral services were held Oct. 10 at Jenks First United Methodist Church with graveside rites at Green Hill Cemetery in Sapulpa.

RICHARD LANGSTON



JENKS, Okla. — Richard Douglas Langston, 69, of Jenks left this life Aug. 4, 2016 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He was born Sept. 12, 1946 in Sapulpa to Lawrence and Lahoma (Burgess) Langston.

He was a scheduler by trade for Explorer Pipeline Company. He resided in the Jenks community all of his life.

He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

He attended college and had a bachelor's degree. He loved dancing, playing checkers, fishing and watching sci-fi movies.

He is survived by his: wife, Betty Langston of the home; son, Andrew D. Langston and wife, Lynn Langston of Tulsa; step-children, Tammy Frisbie and husband, Jerry and Robin Canton and husband, Chris; grandchildren, Madelaine Langston, Meryn Langston and Grant Langston; step-grandchildren, Andrew Frisbie and wife, Rebecca, Amber Frisbie, Bradley Cole, Conner Cole, Ashley Hailey, Samantha Hailey and Brandon Canton; step-great-grandchildren, Sadie Grace Frisbie, Elijah Andrew Frisbie, Darian Michael Neel and Madyx Lee Canton and lots of nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his: parents, Lawrence and Lahoma Langston; son, Philip Langston and step-son, Brian Cole.

Funeral services were conducted by the family Aug. 11 at Jenks United Methodist Church in Jenks.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S Main St in Sapulpa.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

ETO ENLOKCE - Fruit

KVCO - Blackberry
KE - Mulberry
TOFVMPE - Cherry
FVMECV - Cantaloupe
PVKANV - Peach
PVKANUCE - Plum
CVSTVLE - Watermelon
PVRKO - Grape
SVTV RAKKO - Apples
KEPALV - Strawberry

YVLAHV - Orange

K V C O R T O V V T V T O F V M P E
P H V S N N K E P A L K F V M E C V
N S U L S P V K A N V V O V E S P T
A V P L C V S T V L K C O K P V M A
C T V E C V O S U V M Y H Y V T A K
P A K C K K S V F V M V Y K P V M P
V R P S R N V T P E U L T P E R A K
K K F V K M R V V T P A L V M A R S
A O P C V P O R K L M H P K O K V V
N A R F P P O A M K E V V V H K L V
U O O K V P V K A V R C L L K V E E
C T K K K F E K S V T A R K O M V O
E V T P A M M O V M P R F P O V C N
O K M P N V S M O E A P V R V E V Y
V A A P L T E V K T V K P K K E V E

Winner of the OK SPJ, Carter Bradley First Amendment & the NAJA, Elias Boudinot Free Press Awards

Nov. 15, 2016 "Ehole" Frost Month

Vol. 46, Issue 23

MCN trolley hours of operation updated — Page 2



A Mvskoke Media production ~ The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS



Honey Caranzo/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd gave his fiscal year 2016 fourth quarter report Oct. 29 during the MCN National Council quarterly session at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Council approves maintenance funding for Okmulgee Country Club

Floyd gives quarterly report during session

Sterling Cosper
Mvskoke Media Manager

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) National Council was held Oct. 29 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd gave a summary of the Executive Branch report for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2016.

The Treasury Department reported 1,857 employees, up from 1,644 in the last quarter. The report states this is due to Summer Youth Program participants and filled vacant positions.

They reported a total payroll cost of $11,158,771.78, up from $8,720,085 in the third quarterly report.

They also reported that the Permanent Fund is at $313,654,824.90.

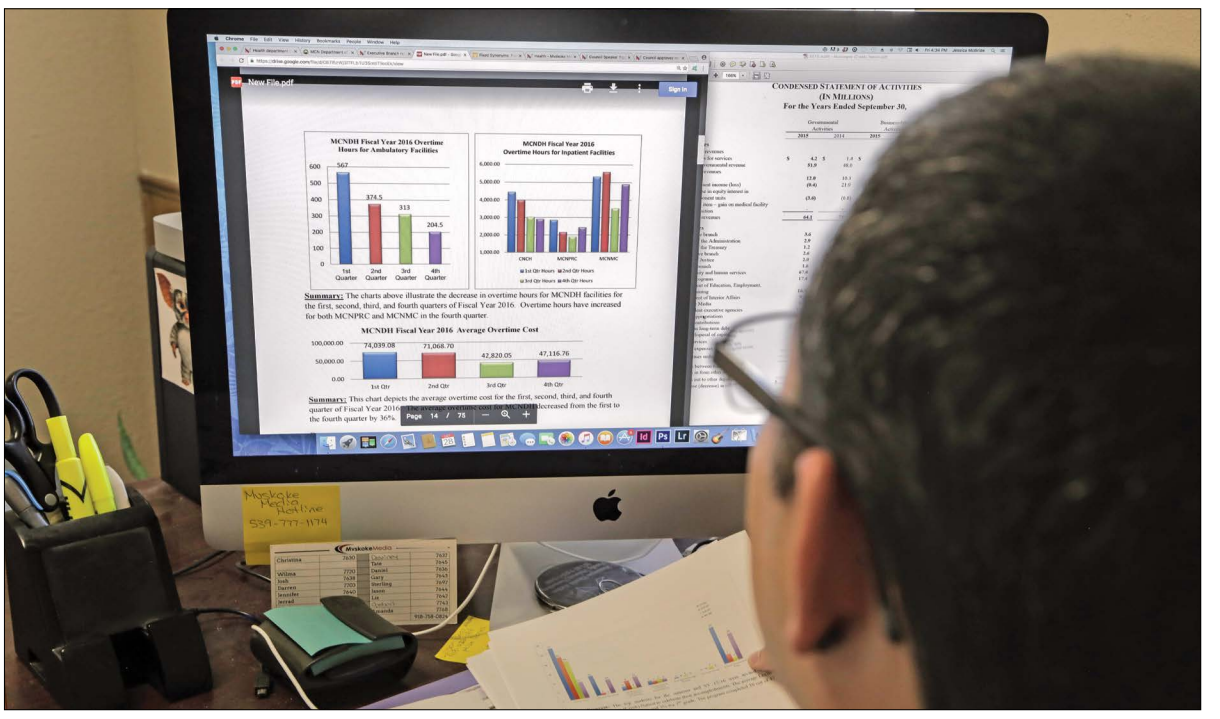
From the Administration Department, Floyd stated the FY 2017 comprehensive annual budget was approved and in place by Oct. 1.

He said the focus of the administration has been strengthening policy, especially regarding travel, Transit, sexual harassment and Fleet Management.

Floyd said the merger of MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) informa-

Council ~ 4

MCNDH expenses exceeded revenues in FY 2015 audit



Honey Caranzo/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch released the fiscal year 2015 audit report, which is available at www.mvskokemedia.com.

Floyd, Roe see audit findings as opportunity

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to audit reports provided by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch, MCN Department of Health expenses exceeded revenues by $22.6 million in fiscal year 2015.

The report is dated June 29, and covers the period between Oct. 1, 2014 and Sept. 30, 2015.

The audit attributes MCNDH operations as causing a decrease of $22.5 million in the Nation's business-type activities net position.

'Business-type activities reported a decrease in net position of $22.5 million. This decrease is attributable to the Department of Health's operating expenses exceeding its operating revenues by $77.7 million, while federal grants and contracts and transfers from other funds combined to only offset $55.1 million of that operating loss,' the audit states.

According to the audit, proprietary fund statements account for business-type activities such as health operations and costs charged internally between the Nation's departments.

The audit states, 'The statement of net position presents information on all the assets, liabilities and net position (the difference between the assets and liabilities) of the Department. Over time, increases or decreases in net

Audit ~ 3



Darren DeLaune/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian Fall Festival was held Oct. 29 at the at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Indian Fall Festival brings in vendors, families

MCN hosts events for all ages

Darren DeLaune
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On a bright, windy Saturday, the annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian Fall Festival took place Oct. 29 at the MCN Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Vendors from near and far came to set up in the Mvskoke Dome to show what they had made and hoped to sell.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Director David Turner said that IFF is an event they wanted to have so people

Festival ~ 2

Bigler to decide Ingram v. MCN case

Attorneys provide arguments in case

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

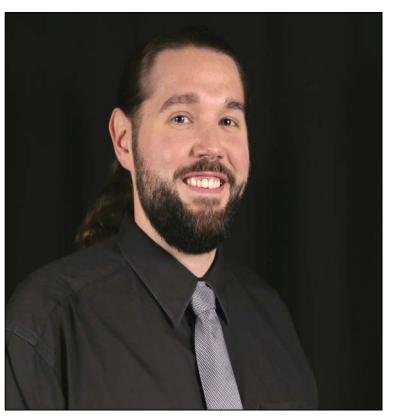
OKMULGEE, Okla. — A hearing was held Oct. 25 in the Barney Ingram v. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing, Alvin Bucktrot and James Floyd case for the motion to dismiss the case.

MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler presided over the hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Bigler stated he would have a ruling on the motion soon.

Mvskoke Media is unable to record audio, video or take photos during

Case ~ 2



Chelsie Rich/MNN

New Mvskoke Media manager announces transition from newsroom

Sterling Cosper
Mvskoke Media Manager

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hen'sci readers. The last time I wrote to you directly was when I officially became 'Muscogee Nation News' ('MNN') editor in July 2013.

This time, it is to announce my departure from this position as I move to the business side of Mvskoke Media (MM) by serving as department manager.

In my first letter, I expressed my thoughts on how our tribal press should function as a part of the government and not under it.

Around this time last year, we were able to make that happen with the help of many proactive and caring officials, citizens and colleagues through the passing of our free press legislation.

Since then, my primary focus has been on exercising this freedom by inquiring about various tribal affairs to give our citizens a better understanding of how our government works and why certain decisions are being made.

In my new role, I will focus on empowering our editorial staff to continue growing in this, while helping our graphic design and printing outlets enhance their services for our citizens.

I will also help these two

Transition ~ 2

Case

Continued from page 1

District Court sessions.

Ingram filed a petition for relief against MCN Housing, Bucktrot and Floyd for breach of contract and slander of title stemming from an issue with his home he obtained from an MCN Housing program.

Links to court documents are available through previous Mvskoke Media coverage of the case.

The hearing lasted approximately 40 minutes, during which the plaintiff's attorney Brenda Golden and the defendants' attorney MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger provided arguments.

Ingram and Bucktrot were present during the hearing, but did not speak. Floyd was absent.

Dellinger stated that moving forward with the case would set a dangerous precedent and referred to MCN Code Annotated Title 27, Section 1-102 and a previous MCN tribal court case, McIntosh v. Beaver.

MCNCA is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

He stated the amount of money involved in the case is not the issue, but the principle of preserving the Nation's sovereign immunity.

Golden stated sovereign immunity does not apply to this specific case, and referred to MCNCA Title 24, Section 4-103.

She stated a citizen has no other recourse for housing disputes than to file a civil suit in the tribal court system.

Bigler asked questions of both attorneys.

Mvskoke Media will provide continuing coverage once Bigler has ruled on the case. Golden has also filed a petition to remove Floyd as principal chief.

Festival

Continued from page 1

could come out and have a great time.

"We wanted to provide another chance for people to come out, have some fun and celebrate life," Turner said. "We have a ton of events going on for the Fall Festival."

The 5K running event started the festival and frybread and chili cook-off contests that were held.

"We have a full day for everyone of all ages to enjoy," Turner said.

It was not only the adults that were having a great time. Children had the opportunity to jump in three bounce houses, as well as a cakewalk and a weaving class.

Co-owner of Moonhawk Art LLC, Mary Beth Timothy brought her merchandise in hopes of getting a sale.

"This is a fun time to be here at this festival," Timothy said. "We know a lot of the other vendors and shows and events like these are more comfortable to showcase what you have."

She spoke about why she likes small, local events such as IFF.

"The small shows and events are the bread and butter for us," Timothy said.

The finale for the day was the Movies in the Dome event for the evening. TR had a free, open to the public viewing of 'Hocus Pocus.'

"We wanted to provide another chance for people to come out, have some fun and celebrate life."

— MCN Tourism and Recreation Director David Turner

Transition

Continued from page 1

combine to provide better quality publications and broadcasts, while increasing our business to also help support editorial operations.

In this, I am stepping out of an active role in the news by passing my coverage and production duties as editor to Media Coordinator Jessica McBride, while we seek a new full-time employee for this position.

The Nov. 15 'Muscogee Nation News' edition will be my last as it is important I shift my full attention to this new role with so much to be accomplished.

While business serves a supporting role in the editorial process, it is also ethically important that we proactively keep these aspects somewhat separate.

The news should be presented in an empirical, attributed and unbiased manner guarded from any means of profit.

While I am certainly trained to discern this, it is in the best interest of our processes to have set personnel and procedures to best allow business and news to support, not influence one another.

I will still be engaged in our editorial discussions by offering my input and experience, as well as staying informed about the focus of 'MNN,' 'Native News Today' ('NNT') and 'Mvskoke Radio' content.

However, this team has been hired based on their training and natural talents in ethical discretion and general news coverage so I will trust them to continue this.

With this in mind, our staff will always be held collectively accountable for how we gather material and present content.

In most instances, our reporters and supervisors will be the designated individuals to answer for these, however I fully expect to be the final line of responsibility for anything from Mvskoke Media.

I do expect to have an active role in the editorial side by having discussions with citizens and officials regarding our values in upholding and strengthening our free press legislation and means to access information about tribal affairs.

Mvto to former 'MNN' editor and MM Editorial Board (MMEB) member Rebecca Landsberry and Wado to 'Cherokee Phoenix' Assistant Editor and MMEB member Travis Snell for selecting me as manager.

They have also played an integral part in development of my professional skills as well as establishing the policy and procedure MM will use to guide us moving forward.

Mvto to 'NNT' host and personal friend Jason Salsman for serving as leader of MM over the last year as we started our transition toward a model that fits our new mission.

Thank you to the rest of the MM staff for your great contribution to the intensive process involved in this transition and for your continued diligence. Finally, I want to thank the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation for continuing to support our mission of providing you with trustworthy and quality information about our tribe.

MCN trolley hours of operation updated



Honey Caranzo/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transportation Department updated the MCN trolley schedule.

Transportation Department plans to build bus shelters

Honey Caranzo
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transportation Department updated the trolley schedule Sept. 6.

"It's basically our drivers are going to be 8 to 5 and we've got it set up to where the first stop starts at 8:15 and it rolls all the way to 4:45," MCN Transportation Coordinator Amy Hill said.

Hill said the change was done to help cut costs.

"We are trying to be cost effective with the funds that we have available," Hill said.

The updated trolley schedule is available online. The 'Muscogee Nation News' recommends the Firefox Internet browser for optimal viewing.

Hill said the route also went from 20 stops to 16.

"We've changed some of our stops to accommodate for safety concerns that we have. So that's why we've gone from say 20 stops to 16," Hill said.

The trolley holds a total of 18 sitting and nine standing passengers. Transit received a notification in September that they will be awarded a competitive project fund through the Federal Transit Administration.

"We will be using the $108,000 to install 10 solar powered bus shelters at the trolley stops," Hill said.

Transit Supervisor Kogee Spaniard said the bus shelters will keep the public out of inclement weather.

According to the MCN Executive Branch Fiscal Year 2016 fourth quarter report, the trolley had 1,764 passengers over this period. The first quarter report listed 1,497 passengers.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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MVSKOKEMEDIA

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Audit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.'

The FY 2014 audit stated that business type activities reported a decrease in net position of $8.7 million and attributed this to MCNDH's operating expenses exceeding its revenues by $16.5 million.

The audit stated that the purchase of MCNDH facilities contributed to the expenses.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd said the facilities also played a roll in the expenses for FY 2015.

"We did acquire these assets that did not make money and we did not make sufficient adjustments so that we didn't continue to lose money," Floyd said.

Floyd and Controller Linda Roe referenced one of the financial statements found in the FY 2015 audit.

The statement shows health department expenses to be $118.5 million.

It shows the charges for services to be $40.8 million and operating funds from the Indian Health Service and other grants to be $49.6 million.

The result was negative net revenue of $28 million for MCNDH.

The statement can be found on pages 11-12 of the FY 2015 MCN basic financial statements and independent auditor's report.

"So what this report is telling us is that $28 million was just somehow not projected or there's not discipline in the system to keep you within your budget… so they do layout in here, one of the documents that we really need a strategic plan.

"We need to have discipline in the system and we need to have the strict policies and procedures that we operate from and those are basic things. They point those out, and they point those out as factors that kind of hindered the tribe in operating that health care system," Floyd said.

Floyd said that in February 2016 when the approximately $65 million deficit was announced, it included the amount from the FY 2014 audit and projections from FY 2015 and FY 2016.

He said the audit is a requirement by the federal government because the Nation receives federal funds.

"I was pleased to see the 2015 report be more defined and less general than it was in 2014," Floyd said.

REDW is the accounting firm that provided the reports for FY 2015 and FY 2014.

"The findings in my opinion from 2015 reiterated what I think as a citizen I kind of expected was occurring, particularly in health, that we were very much in debt and that had not followed good planning in acquiring assets, expanding programs, hiring staff and the audit seems to relate to that as well as picking up the troubled spots that I sensed in looking at collections of revenue from insurances and Medicaid, Medicare," Floyd said.

He said each year's audit would tell a different story to recognize things that the tribe has done for that year.

Audit findings

MCN Controller Linda Roe said the audit gives the Nation and the accounting department a chance to make corrections and shift things in the right direction.

"I guess I look at it from the opportunity perspective. This gives me a starting place… so this is a road map if you will where we're going to try to take this and especially with Health, it's such an important part of the tribe," she said.

The FY 2015 audit states that significant and material deficiencies were found in the financial statements' internal controls as well as significant deficiencies in internal control of federal awards.

Three of the 13 findings were also reported as issues in the FY 2014 audit.

Repeat findings included not having an up-to-date accounting policy manual, significant auditing entries after accounting records were closed and no physical inventory of the Nation's capital assets.

"Repeat findings are troubling. However, with everything that has been going on with all of the activities, we have to keep in mind, and the limited resources that we have as far as personnel and there was a lot of change as well.

"I think there were good intentions, I think there were excellent starts made, it just didn't come to fruition. And my goal is before this next audit to have that of course in place," Roe said.

Roe said she hopes to have all of the findings addressed, but because the audit was received late in the year, she may not have all items corrected for the FY 2016 audit. She said all of the found issues would be in order by 2017.

Six of the 13 findings specifically address MCNDH, and state that Health accounting employees need proper training to understand the daily processes in their positions, as well as expense reduction.

"The accounting group had a health care auditor with experience, and so that helped us because again, we wanted to discover in as much detail as possible what was going on, what their conclusions were and how we might improve upon that in the future," Floyd said.

The Nation's responses to each of the findings can be found in the audit on the Mvskoke Media website.

Correcting the deficit

Floyd said the health deficit does not necessarily affect other operations within the Nation.

"However, when there's trouble, financial difficulties in that department, you really have two options, either begin to cut back on what you're operating or seek additional revenue or both.

"And in this case it appears in 2015, the tribe and the health director went to the Council and obtained additional money and we really don't see much evidence in cutting back. In fact it shows that they increased the size of the health department and so you really compounded your problem," he said.

Roe commented on moving forward to correct the MCNDH losses found in the audits.

"These kind of losses, you can't sustain them… we are responsible for that loss and that's why the difficult decisions have to be made," she said.

The executive branch announced Sept. 30 that 123 MCNDH employee positions were cut and 55 employees were transferred to other positions within the Nation.

"If we had not done anything, then we would face I think one of two things, the National Council either appropriating a huge amount of money to cover the losses way beyond even the $65 million because it would have been over $100 million… the second would be is you begin to cut things back.

"If we had not done anything and we were sitting here today with nothing being done, you would even face the possibility of having to close some facilities permanently," Floyd said.

The Executive Branch released the fiscal year 2016 fourth quarter report Oct. 28, which stated that MCNDH reduced personnel costs by $12.2 million.

The report also stated programs such as the Caregiver Program and Tobacco Prevention Program were transferred to other departments within the Nation, and audiology, podiatry, orthodontics, dialysis, home health and inpatient rehabilitation were phased out and would be provided through purchased care.

The report states overtime costs were reduced by 36 percent, and cash collection increased from $6.78 million in the first quarter of 2015, $10.1 million in the first quarter of 2016, and $13.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Floyd said like with any business, health care looks to make a profit.

"As a former administrator, you end your year in negative balance it's like a football coach who lost every game of the season, you basically pack your office and get ready to get fired… with health care, there's another year ahead of you and they want to keep the hospital open and if you didn't make the profit to keep it open, they're going to find somebody who can come in and do that," Floyd said.

Roe said the current economic climate is tough for the health care industry.

"I think you have to keep that in mind as well even though we would always of course love to have more resources, it's not always possible with the economic factors," she said.

Future plans

The past two financial audits for MCN were completed in June of the following fiscal year.

Roe said her goal is to have the auditors review financials in January so that the audit report would be issued by April.

"We can see that we need to reconcile our accounts or whatever, but we don't have any time to implement that before the next fiscal year and the audit comes," she said. "So, in this way we can have the audit, we can have what they find as findings and we can work on those and get all of those taken care of prior to the next year."

Floyd said receiving the audit sooner in the year would set the standard for the coming years.

He said he does not see a need for a forensic audit at this time.

"I think the accounting firm that we used portrayed 2015 very well. It is an interactive process so we were able to work with them and let them know some of our concerns," Floyd said. "I was interviewed personally about some things I would question, some things that were a priority to me and that gives them directions of where they need to spend more time and health care was pretty much at the top of the list."

Floyd said citizens should understand that annual audits are not a punishment, but a routine review.

"The value that we should be getting out of the audit are instructions or results as we have in this one that guides us to make decisions in the future throughout management," he said.

View all documents referred to this article at: www.mvskokemedia.com/archives/documents/.

View previous coverage of the reported health deficit and loans for the construction of health facilities at www.mvskokemedia.com or in these editions:

April 1 May 1 May 15 June 1 June 15
July 1 Sept. 1 Oct. 15

'Scalp Dance, A Sam Chitto Mystery' now available

Lutricia Clifton/Non-citizen

DAVIS, Ill. — 'Scalp Dance, A Sam Chitto Mystery' (ISBN 978-1-4328-3129-5): A tribal police officer fights inner demons as he investigates a series of killings. Lt. Sam Chitto of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police is nearly at his breaking point after the death of his young wife and his continued failure to solve the 10-year-old murder of his police-officer father. A geologist by training, Chitto is considering quitting the police until he's asked to quietly investigate a case that rightly belongs to the FBI.

In Oklahoma, the state is chopped up into many tribal areas mixed in with non-tribal lands, and the tribal police force's inability to arrest anyone but Indians allows many criminals to slip through the cracks. The body of a naked white man with his head chopped off has been found on the Choctaw Council House grounds four days after a ceremony took place. Since the victim was married to a Chickasaw, Chitto will work with Sgt. Frank Tubbe of the Chickasaw Nation while they try to keep the FBI in the dark.

Chitto's mother, a councilperson deeply involved in tribal affairs, is just one of the many people unhappy with the failure of official efforts to prevent and prosecute rape, the most common crime police deal with.

When Chitto's investigation reveals that the dead body is not the first to be found four days after a ceremony on various tribal grounds, he realizes that he needs to learn more about the rituals of his culture and enlists the help of cultural anthropologist Leslie Anderson, an attractive friend of his mother.

The men who were killed were linked only by their propensity toward violence against women. Chitto, who's being followed as he investigates, wonders if someone in law enforcement is leaking information. When he does discover the truth, he has a tough decision to make. This fine procedural debut by Clifton, who's published several teen novels (Immortal Max, 2014, etc.), is made even more interesting by its detailed information on Native American ceremonies.

- 'Kirkus Review' Sept. 15, 2015

The book is available in bookstores and www.amazon.com.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion technology, human resources and finance services with MCN is complete.

He said this has reduced overhead costs and operational redundancies.

MCNDH reported completion of their comprehensive realignment and consolidation.

Floyd said this would improve services and care coordination, while decreasing operational costs and increasing revenue.

The report states MCNDH personnel costs are down 17 percent at $12,247,000.

Floyd said a workload schedule was established through the realignment.

The report states this allows each provider to see 17 patients per day in addition to four same-day walk-in slots totaling 21 patients per day.

It states the kept appointments totaled 43,436, up from 34,238 in the first quarter.

It states the Caregiver and Tobacco Prevention Programs were transferred from MCNDH to the MCN Community and Human Services Department and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program was transferred to the Education, Employment and Training (EET) Department.

It states the realignment resulted in a reduction of 123 positions with 31 employees transferred to MCN making a total reduction of 154 MCNDH employees.

"It was not an easy thing to do," Floyd said. "But with the 2017 budget and the situation we experienced in fiscal year 15-16, the realignment had to be done going into this fiscal year in order to begin the year with an approved budget, which we were able to as well as balanced budget."

The report states MCNDH collected $13,367,598 in third party revenue over the fourth quarter and ended the fiscal year with a total of $48,173,270, an increase of $10,651,380 from FY 2015.

The report states the completion date for the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah has been pushed back to May 2017 due to design changes required by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' emailed MCN Public Relations (PR) the afternoon of Nov. 1 for more information about the design changes and did not receive a response as of press time.

In 'MNN' coverage of the July 20 midpoint celebration for the facility, Floyd estimated the facility would be fully open by spring 2017.

The report states that the hospital portion has been closed in and environmental conditioning was set to begin at the end of October.

The report states the MCN Medical Center in Eufaula was on schedule for groundbreaking at the end of October or early November.

Community and Human Services (CHS) reported that the Hardship Program cases were 477, up from 398 in the last quarter.

CHS reported 68 Natural Disaster Relief cases, up from 14 in the third quarter.

They reported 46 Burial Assistance Program-Gaming cases, up from 38 in the third quarter.

They reported 59 Burial-Taxes and Licenses Assistance Program cases, up from 20 in the third quarter.

They reported 101 Food for Funeral Assistance Program cases, up from 52 in the third quarter.

EET reported that the Scholarship Foundation Program awarded 36 scholarships totaling $27,250 for the fall semester.

They reported the third annual Scholarship Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament raised $26,660 to support their established scholarships.

They reported that the Eufaula Dormitory has 78 students in residence this fall.

It states these students are actively engaged in tutoring, recreational activities and culturally enriched endeavors while the dorm strives to ensure the overall health, success and well-being of the students.

EET reported the top students participating in the Literacy Program for school year 2015-2016 were invited from throughout the MCN jurisdiction to celebrate their accomplishments.

These include the average Lexile score growth for second grade readers being seven percent and seventh grade readers being three percent.

According to the Lexile website, their framework for reading involves a scale for measuring individuals' reading abilities along with the text complexity of their reading materials.

The Interior Affairs Department reported five new grants awarded through applications by the Planning Department totaling $4,169,065.

They reported that the Agribusiness Department has bailed soybeans, with 35 acres of beans remaining and a total of 501 head of cattle.

Agribusiness also reported production of 1,100 bales of hay in FY 2015 and 2016.

Floyd said the historic tax credit application has been done for the MCN Council House restoration project and an agreement has been established with a contractor for the project to tentatively start in mid-December.

The Housing Department reports that 39 applicants have been approved for assistance with rental housing through the Elderly Subsidy Program.

They reported working with Bank2 on their Section 184 Pilot Program and that new staff are being trained to have the first 10-15 applicants purchasing new homes through this assistance.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website, Section 184 is known as the Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program, which offers mortgages specifically designed for Native Americans.

It offers low down payments and flexible underwriting.

Floyd thanked PR for attending a number of community, public and private events.

The report states PR had 1,288,092 hits on the tribal website.

The Lighthorse Tribal Police Department logged responses to 312 reportable crimes, 1,291 calls for service, 141 arrests and 48 citations for a total of 1,792 cases.

The Tax Commission reported $2,291,252.08 in collections through outlets such as vehicle tax registration as well as sales, alcohol, tobacco, motor fuel and other taxes.

The Citizenship Board reported that tribal enrollment is at 81,747 citizens as of Sept. 30.

The Election Board reported 17,157 registered voters as of Sept. 30.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

NCR 16-005 A resolution of the MCN National Council selecting Mary Lee to the board of directors of MCN Durable Medical Equipment (DME) LLC. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

Per the operating agreement for DME, the Council must select a member for the company board of directors.

The member must have a bachelor's degree plus a minimum of two years business management experience; or five years executive management experience including but not limited to that of a CFO, CEO and/or COO; or an advanced degree plus business management experience equal to nine years.

The Council chose Lee.

TR 16-144 Approving a revised payments and rents policy for the MCN Housing Department. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely on a motion from Yahola 13-0.

In an 'MNN' interview with Yahola he said he was reviewing the bill and noticed the memo was signed by former acting Secretary of Housing Alvin Bucktrot.

Yahola said he asked current Secretary of Housing Samuel Whitlow if he had reviewed the document and was satisfied with the conditions in the bill.

"He said he wasn't and so that's why he asked to table it," Yahola said. "So that's why I made the motion to postpone indefinitely."

The legislation cites the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act portion that states programs administering HUD funds must develop written policies governing the payments and rents of families who receive assistance.

'MNN' reached out to MCN PR the afternoon of Oct. 31 to get more information from Whitlow and did not receive a response as of the time of initial publication.

However, PR provided a written statement from Whitlow before the press deadlines for the Nov. 15 edition.

Whitlow stated the legislation was based on the HUD OIG audit report of Housing released July 8, which recommended that the department revise the rents and payments policy to prevent undercharging rent to non-low income families.

'According to the Southern Plains Office of Native American Program (SPONAP/HUD), the OIG report generated some confusion regarding serving families that are over-income and has resulted in rents or payments being substantially increased.'

Whitlow stated that the confusion was related to program participants who were low income at the time they applied for assistance but became non-low income due to qualifying for the program and cited HUD policy.

'According to 24 CFR 1000.110 (a), a family that was low income at the time they were served and subsequently, to being admitted to the program, becomes a non-low income family due to increase in income, may continue to participate in the program in accordance with the recipient's Admission and Occupancy Policies and the Agreement they have entered into with the Nation's lease purchase…'

The statement said clarification of this issue led to the initial revisions proposed in the legislation being invalid and therefore the bill was postponed indefinitely.

TR 16-151 Confirming the nomination of Terry A. Costanza to serve on the Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF) Board. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-1 with Rep. Mark Randolph voting against it.

Appointments to the MLF Board require Council confirmation.

Member Al Wilson resigned and Costanza was nominated to take his place.

'MNN' called Randolph regarding his vote the afternoon of Oct. 31 and did not receive a response as of press time.

TR 16-158 Approving the memorandum of agreement between MCN, the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the town of Hanna for IHS Project OK 11-S46 and authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement among MCN, IHS and Hanna. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The three governments entered into an agreement regarding evaluation of Hanna's water facilities to protect the health of Native Americans.

An engineering report, as-built drawings and the water system hydraulic analysis have been completed according to the agreement.

A new agreement needs approval for the project moving forward.

TR 16-159 Approving the memorandum of agreement for IHS Project OK 09-D66 and the exchange letter amendment for Project OK 09-D66 and authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS on behalf of the U.S. and the Muskogee County Rural Water District #6. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

IHS completed a project to provide adequate water services to a home in the county through MCN and agreements need to be finalized to legally transfer the constructed facilities to the home.

TR 16-160 Approving the memorandum of agreement for IHS Project OK 10-D82 and the letter exchange amendment for IHS Project OK 10-D82 and authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS on behalf of the U.S. and the Porter Public Works Authority (PWA). Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

IHS completed projects to provide adequate water services to homes in Porter through MCN and agreements need to be finalized to legally transfer the constructed facilities to the PWA serving the homes.

TR 16-161 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement with IHS on behalf of the U.S. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

IHS completed projects to provide adequate water services to several homes in the MCN jurisdiction through the tribe and agreements need to be finalized to legally transfer the constructed facilities to the homes.

TR 16-162 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a coatings system sustainable warranty between MCN and ITW Polymers Sealants North America Inc. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCN appropriated money last year to make repairs to the Holdenville Creek Indian Community center roof and the company offers a 10-year warranty on the project.

The warranty contains a law under the State of Texas that would require a waiver of MCN sovereignty and this bill approves the waiver.

TR 16-163 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Sequoya Lodge facility rental agreement between MCN and the Oklahoma State Tourism and Recreation Department. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program wishes to use the facility for their annual language immersion camp.

TR 16-164 Authorizing the principal chief to execute quotations and terms and conditions with GE Healthcare related to the operation of Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNDH wishes to use the

Council - 5

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

company for goods and services to be used at the MCN Community Hospital being built in Okemah.

TR 16-165 Authorizing the principal chief to execute facility use agreement forms between MCN and the Green Country Technology Center for the purpose of renting seminar rooms. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program wishes to use the center to hold events.

TR 16-166 Confirming the nomination of Sharon Mouss to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCN law requires the principal chief to make appointments to this board that must be approved by Council.

An empty seat was left open in 2011 that affected the rotation of the board members terms and Mouss was selected to fill it in January 2012.

Mouss has been renominated for the normal five-year term to address this.

TR 16-167 Amending TR 16-061 (An MCN tribal resolution authorizing and establishing a review committee for the process of reviewing and recommending improvements to the MCN electoral process through MCN Code Annotated (MCNCA) Title 19 (Election Code)). Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

A committee was established to review the MCN Election Board and their recommendations for changes in MCNCA pertaining to the board are due Jan. 7, 2017 based on the original bill that formed the committee.

This bill would extend that date to March 1, 2017.

TR 16-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a membership application and license agreement between MCN and GS1 US for the MCN Citizenship Office. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

The legislation waives MCN sovereign immunity to contract with the company for using their services.

According to previous 'MNN' coverage, Citizenship is looking to contract with the company to offer enhanced tribal ID cards for citizens to decrease the risk of fraud, comply with standards required by the federal REAL ID act that impact air travel and to have IDs that act as a passport.

TR 16-169 Approving beer sales at the Checotah Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop. Reps. Adam Jones, Lucian Tiger, Darrell Proctor and Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-1 with Yahola voting against it.

In an interview with 'MNN,' Yahola said MCN Attorney General Kevin Dellinger stated in a memo reviewing the Council agenda that the community still had pending insurance obligations for the business endeavor.

"So I felt like they should all be in line, or have their permits all before I would vote on it," Yahola said.

TR 16-170 Authorizing the principal chief to execute quotations and terms and conditions with GE Healthcare related to operation of health facilities. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCNDH wishes to administer anesthesia to their patients using the company's goods and services.

TR 16-171 Authorizing the principal chief to execute future service line agreements with utility service providers on behalf of MCN. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

MCN needs these agreements to have utilities services provided for tribal buildings and this legislation approves future agreements without having to address each one individually.

TR 16-172 Authorizing the adoption of a drug and alcohol testing program policy for employees of the MCN Transit system. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-0.

Transit is looking to adopt this policy based on U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration regulations to ensure the safety of their passengers.

The funding source for NCAs 16-166, 169, 172, 173, 174, 175 and 176 is interest on the Permanent Fund.

NCA 16-151 Authorizing a $35,000 special appropriation to the Eufaula Indian Community (EIC) and authorizing applications for a state limited liability company in order to start up an economic development venture for the community. Jones and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month 13-0.

EIC is looking to start up a home décor product sales company and has found a space to lease in downtown Eufaula for a formal location but is also looking to have online sales.

Jones made the motion to postpone the bill, which was also postponed one month during the Sept. 26 regular session.

During the meeting, Barnett asked Jones why he made the motion.

The audio of 'MNN' staff who were sitting on the second row, was unclear as it appeared the only microphone in the auditorium operating was the Council speaker's.

However based on discussion between Jones and Barnett, it seemed that the community is waiting for some licensing related to their start up process.

NCA 16-166 Appropriating $10,000 to the MCN Electoral Process Review Committee. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

This money is to reimburse the committee members for travel to their meetings in Okmulgee.

NCA 16-167 Authorizing the expenditure of $171,767.52 MCNDH investment funds to fund the settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General and MCNDH. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

'MNN' emailed MCN PR the afternoon of Oct. 31 and did not receive a response as of press time.

NCA 16-169 Authorizing a $4,299 special appropriation to Faith Baptist Church. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0-1, with Hill abstaining.

The church is seeking assistance in purchasing a lawnmower and does not qualify for the MCN Churches and Ceremonial Grounds Grant Program.

In an email to 'MNN' Hill stated he abstained because one of the two quotes from vendors for the mowers was a relative.

NCA 16-170 Amending MCNCA Title 7, Chapter 4, Subchapter 4-104, titled 'Applications' to include limited use of supporting documents for individuals unable to obtain a birth certificate. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which 13-0.

This would amend the portion of MCNCA that pertains to enrolling as a tribal citizen.

It adds language, which states that applicants born before 1940 may provide a letter from vital records in the state where they were born, which states that no delayed birth certificate is able to be issued.

The legislation states that when this is provided, supporting documentation can be accepted in place of the birth certificate with approval of the MCN Citizenship Board.

It adds that this supporting documentation includes determination of heirs, death and heirship for both father and mother, court-related probate or Social Security numident.

According to the U.S. Social Security Administration website, numident is a display of the information taken from an individual's application for an original Social Security card and subsequent applications for replacement cards.

NCA 16-172 Authorizing a $358,021 supplemental appropriation to the Higher Education Incentive Grants Program fiscal year 2017 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

The Higher Education Department has had an increase in students participating in these grants but their funding has not been increased.

NCA 16-173 Authorizing a $1,960 donation to the Women Doing the Impossible Organization. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

This organization is hosting their National Native American Heritage Month event and requested assistance to do so.

NCA 16-174 Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee Sacred Site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala., and authorizing a $232,000 special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related thereto. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-0.

MCN supported the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) in Alabama with gaining oversight of the ground.

In return PBCI assured MCN that they would preserve the site's culture. However, they constructed a casino on it, which unearthed ancestral remains.

MCN filed a lawsuit and implemented a public relations effort against PBCI for this reason and more funds are required to continue this.

NCA 16-175 Appropriating $450,000 to implement a Health Career Services Training Program to be administered by the MCN Department of Education and Training (E&T). Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-3, with Reps. Rufus Scott, Randolph and Barnett voting against it.

The legislation states this program will help participants with finding education and occupational information to help their career, plan their education and better understand the workforce.

It states it will help them find suitable employment at MCNDH.

It states that the program will offer a listing of all positions within MCNDH and offer training under E&T to return to MCNDH or begin working through them at the new Eufaula and Okemah hospitals.

It states participants showing involvement and willingness to participate in the training for employment at these facilities will receive a $500 incentive grant not to exceed six awards per participant.

It states MCN projects that a minimum of 100 Muscogee (Creek) citizens will participate.

During the meeting, Barnett asked if the training offered was available other places.

"Because I noticed CPR. You can go other places to get CPR classes," Barnett said.

'MNN' audio was unclear again, but it sounded like Jennings said other services were offered like medical coding.

Barnett reinterated her question about classes offered elsewhere, which was directed to an MCNDH employee.

Audio from the employee's answer is unclear.

During the Oct. 10 Council Health, Education and Welfare Committee meeting, Barnett asked a similar question about other training options as well as how many employees would need what specific trainings.

An MCNDH employee said their staff had plans to meet before the Council quarterly session to iron out details.

Barnett abstained during the committee vote on this bill.

NCA 16-176 Authorizing a $160,000 appropriation to the MCN Department of the Interior for maintenance and upkeep of the Okmulgee Country Club and Golf Course. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-3 with Hicks, Jones and Scott voting against it.

The funding is to maintain the property by buying equipment and hiring one employee as well as possible seasonal labor.

During the meeting, MCN Secretary of the Interior Chris Azbell said that the MCN Facilities Department maintains the property to an extent right now but it is a sizable job for them to continue doing so.

He said it is not in disrepair but more attention is needed to bring it up from where it is now and keep it from continuing to deteriorate.

He said it would be ideal to have it at a certain level of appearance for investors and that they talked to a company through OneFire Holding Company LLC as one prospect.

Hicks asked if the property could be used as office space.

Azbell said he was asked to develop it as an economic development venture and is acting accordingly.

Hicks said he could not support the bill with MCN employees working out of trailers.

The upcoming regular session is set for Nov. 19.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability. According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



Honey Caranzo/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held a tailgate party Oct. 7 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla., to help educate attendees about domestic violence issues.

Native love is…

Event aims to educate in fun environment

Jessica McBride
Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program held a tailgate party Oct. 7 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee to help educate attendees about domestic violence issues.

October is domestic violence awareness month.

This is the second time FVPP has hosted a tailgate like event to help educate the public about domestic violence and sexual assault.

"We felt this was a great way to get people out, to be able to fellowship, provide information and also have fun," FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said.

Participants were asked to complete a quiz prior to entering the event to gage their knowledge of laws and incorrect beliefs when it comes to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Attendees then visited several booths to gather information, dispel inaccurate assumptions and complete a post-test with the same questions.

Representatives from MCN departments who commonly deal with facets of domestic violence such as Behavioral Health Services, the Attorney General's Office and Mvskoke Nation Youth Services were available to assist in answering questions pertaining to their topics.

Completed quizzes could be turned in for a T-shirt.

Activities such as bean-bag tic tac toe and football throws were offered to help make the environment fun and inviting, and engage youth.

"A lot of times we'll feature events where we have survivors that are speaking. And obviously those stories, those experiences are really traumatic not only for the survivor but for people who come to interact and hear those stories," Partridge said.

She said while it is important to share those real life stories, the program also wants to provide positive, fun opportunities.

Partridge said she wanted to remind Muscogee (Creek) citizens that domestic violence has no part in Native culture.

"While domestic violence is very prevalent amongst our people, it is not our tradition," she said. "This is not behavior that's acceptable, that's appropriate… Domestic violence has no place in our culture, and we forget that because we're so inundated with it."

Partridge said the program continues to see domestic violence and sexual assault cases increase.

"While that would often be viewed as negative or something bad, it's not," she said. "We see that as good and we're making progress that people know who to call so that they can get help."

According to a fact sheet available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org, a 2008 U.S. Center for Disease Control study showed 39 percent of Native women surveyed reported being victims of relationship violence at some point in their lifetime, which is higher than any other race or ethnicity surveyed.

FVPP provides advocacy, support and services for those affect by sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. Services are provided to any race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation or sexual orientation.

Partridge said the program is confidential and non-judgmental.

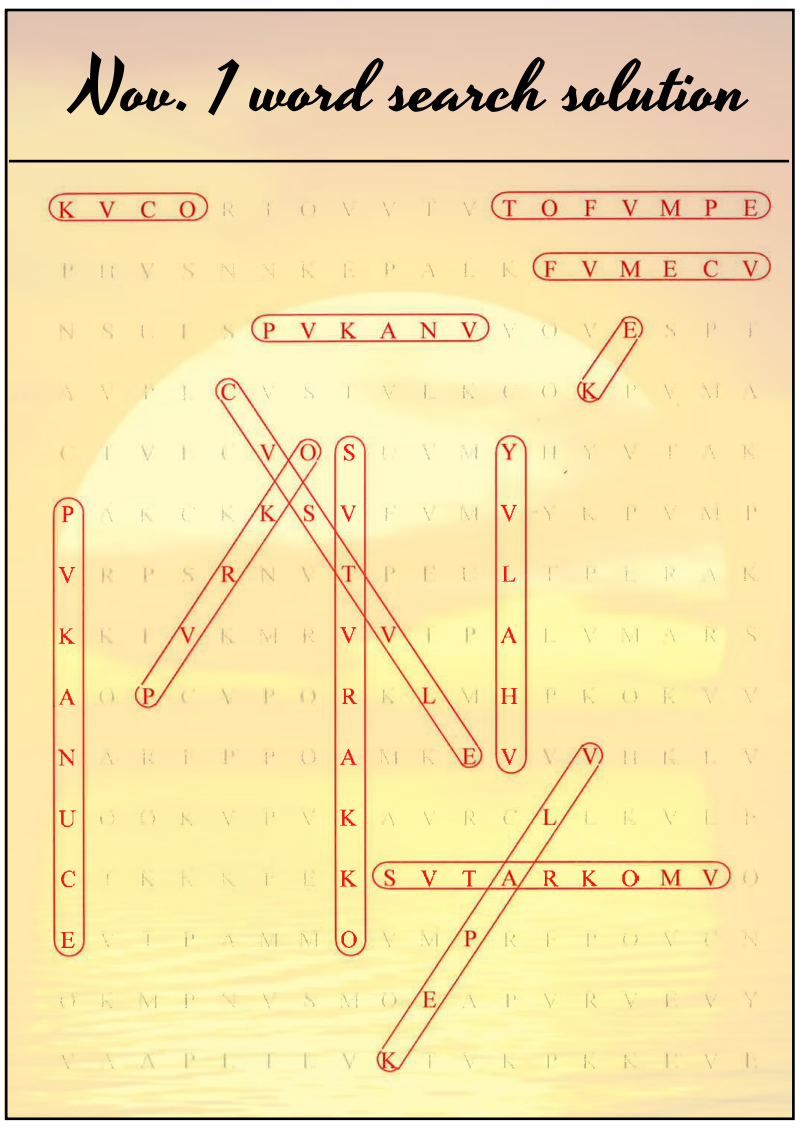
If you or someone you know needs assistance, call: 918-732-7979. For assistance after regular business hours, call the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department at: 918-732-7800 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate.

For more information about FVPP, visit: www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/family-violence-prevention-program/.

"While domestic violence is very prevalent amongst our people, it is not our tradition."

— MCN FVPP Director Shaw Partridge

Nov. 1 word search solution



CORRECTION

In the Oct. 15, 2016 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' Muscogee Staffing Solutions Chief Executive Officer Michael Shaw said in the story titled 'MCN job placement service announced,' that MSS is 8a certified.

However, he asked to clarify that they are not at the moment but are seeking this status. Shaw also requested a statement in the story be clarified due to a miscommunication regarding the entity's structure. A portion read that Muscogee Nation Business LLC was formerly Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, which is incorrect.

MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Dec. 1 — Nov. 22

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

Head Start participates in food care program

MCN Head Start/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

All participants are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, nation origin, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities).

If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA program discrimination complaint form found online at: www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or write a letter containing the information requested and send it to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, fax it to: 202-690-7442 or email it to program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at: 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



'Baby and Me Tobacco Free' services announced

Tobacco Prevention/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program announces their 'Baby and Me Tobacco Free' services.

The service offers free diapers for participants who quit smoking.

For more information or to enroll contact Program Specialist Arlene Davis at: 918-756-9343.

Child Care Office participates in food assistance program

Child Care/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

All participants in attendance are served meals, at no extra charge to the parents.

In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, participating institutions are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-940, or call toll-free 866-632-9992 (Voice).

Individuals who are hearing-impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Little Cussetah anniversary Nov. 26

SAPULPA, Okla. — Little Cussetah Indian Baptist Church has set their 130th anniversary for 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Nov. 26.

A light breakfast and full lunch will be provided.

The event will feature a history presentation, service as well as singing in Creek and English.

Everyone is welcome and a special invitation is presented to former pastors, members and MSW churches.

TCIC bingo & food sale set Dec. 1

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a bingo and food sale event for 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at the TCIC Center, 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.

TCIC Christmas bazaar set Dec. 3

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set their Christmas bazaar for 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 3 at the TCIC Center 8611 S. Union Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132.

The vendor fee is $5, due by Nov. 28 and includes a table and two chairs. Setup is 7-8 a.m. and cleanup is 3-4 p.m.

Concessions will be available.

No outside tables are allowed and they can only purchase one. For more information call: 918-298-2464.

MCN Child Support accepting cash at retail stores

Child Care/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Support Enforcement is partnering with electronic cash transaction network PayNearMe to accept cash child support payments at nearly 20,000 retail stores nationwide, many of which are open 24 hours a day.

The in-store transaction requires no paperwork and can be done in approximately 60 seconds.

Non-custodial parents can use PayNearMe to make a child support payment in three easy steps:

Visit http://www.PayNearMe.com/Muscogee

Follow the instructions and select whether you would like your PayNearMe payment code sent to your mobile phone or email.

Choose from the list of retail locations closest to you, visit the store and hand both the payment code and cash to the cashier.

For more information, visit: http://paynearme.com.

MILDRED HARBACK

OKLAHOMA CITY — The trumpets are blaring in Heaven, for Mildred Louise Harback was called back home Oct. 28, 2016.

She was born May 29, 1909 to Patrick Highland and Lula Noco Highland in Fame.

She was preceded in death by: her husband of 46 years, Frank; brothers, Patrick, LeRoy and James Highland; daughter, Carolyn Gallant and ancestor William McIntosh, Chief of the Lower Creek Nation, whom she is great-granddaughter to.

She is survived by: daughter, Linda Thompson of Tulsa and son Dean Harback of Oklahoma City; niece, Jolene Roy of Stillwater as well as 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Mildred always enjoyed family get-together and hands of cards.

Memorials may be made to Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in her name.

A mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 1 at Saint Patrick's Church followed by interment at Fairview Cemetery.

RUBY MAUK

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ruby Maxine Mauk passed away Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016 at the age of 96 at her home in Okmulgee. Ruby was born Sept. 1, 1920 to the late John Parker Haynes and Martha May (Berryhill) Haynes in Okmulgee. She graduated from Chilocco High School in 1941. Ruby worked as a nurse aid at the Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital for many years. She loved her job and caring for people. Ruby also loved going to church and revivals, singing and going shopping at the thrift stores. She was a long time member of Newtown United Methodist Church.

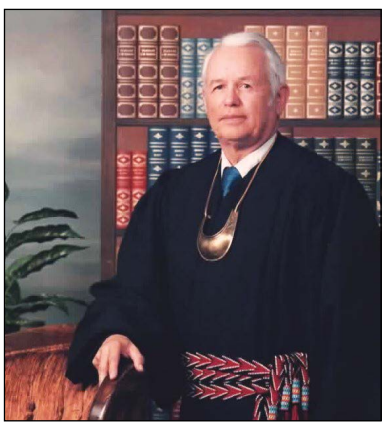
Ruby is preceded in death by her: parents; husband, Lance Mauk and brother, Joseph Vernon Haynes Sr. Left to cherish the memory of Ruby are her: nieces and nephews, Joe Haynes Jr., Barbra Haynes Espinoza, Trudy Haynes, Dean Haynes, Vera Sue Haynes, Verna Haynes, Sammy Haynes and Pammy Haynes as well as an abundance of great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held for Ruby Oct. 27, 2016 at Newtown United Methodist Church with Rev. Dave Long and Reverend Lisa Dellinger.

Friends may visit the funeral home on Wednesday, Serving as pallbearers were: Colin DeMaio, Kevin DeMaio, Sherman Addi, Charlie Hicks Jr., Sammy Haynes, Ethan Haynes, Rufus 'Buddy' Cox, Micco Freeman and Greg Berryhill. Honorary pallbearers were: Revs. Sammy Chupco and Dave Long, Daryl Wall, David Bible, Vernon Freeman, Bruce Berryhill, Derek Smith, Corey Smith and Charlie Hicks III.

Arrangements were entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Ruby's tribute page on our website at: www.mcclendon-winters.com.

CHINNUBBIE MCINTOSH



TULSA, Okla. — Chinnubbie McIntosh, 89, died peacefully surrounded by wife, children and grandchildren Oct. 3, 2016 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

Known as Tap in his family, Dad to his children, grandpa and BaPa to his grand and great-grand children, Uncle Nubbie to many nieces and nephews, Hacoce to his Creek friends, and Mac to his colleagues and close friends, Chinnubbie was born in Miami, Okla., on April 13, 1927 to W.E. 'Dode' McIntosh and Lulu Vance McIntosh.

After his family moved to Tulsa in 1942, Chinnubbie graduated from Central High School in 1945. During his high school years, his family owned the first trampoline in Tulsa and Chinnubbie worked as a summer counselor at Camp Kanakuk in Branson, Mo.

Soon after graduation, he was drafted and began serving in the U.S. Army, a service he marked with nearly 50 years of marching in the Tulsa Veterans Parade.

Upon discharge, Chinnubbie attended the University of Oklahoma and later attended the University of Tulsa, where he studied transportation law.

When he passed, the transportation law exam with the third highest score in the nation, he practiced transportation law for Warren Petroleum/Gulf Oil for 15 years and he taught transportation law at Tulsa Community College for seven years. A leadership milestone was when he served as president of the Tulsa Transportation Club in the 1970s. Chinnubbie met the love of his life, Nancy Lee Fortner, in Tulsa and they were married on Dec. 15, 1950.

While in Tulsa, he worked for three railroad companies during which he had two sons and a daughter, Kenneth Waldo McIntosh, Cynthia Lee Roberts and Robert Randolph McIntosh.

They moved to Kansas City, Mo., where his fourth daughter, Sandra Louise Klika was born. In addition to working for railroad companies, he worked for a family credit bureau in Riverton, Wyo., and after returning to Tulsa in 1959, he worked as a trampoline instructor before going to work for Warren Petroleum/Gulf Oil for 23 years. After retiring at age 55, Chinnubbie served the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a National Council representative, judge, board member on the Creek Housing Authority, enrolling Creek tribal members and attending stompdances at the New Tulsa Stomp Ground for more than 30 years.

A service for which he was given the Creek name Hacoce. He also was active in the Tulsa Scottish Club and toured many Highland Games as Chief Chinnubbie McIntosh of the McIntosh Clan.

He was preceded in death by his: father, W.E. Dode McIntosh, principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; mother, Lulu Vance McIntosh; brothers, W.E. McIntosh Jr. and William McIntosh and sister, Emily 'Willie' Lee.

He is survived by his: brother, Nocus McIntosh of Grove; wife, Nancy; children, Ken and Eulaine McIntosh of Clarendon, Texas, Cynthia Lee Roberts of Tulsa, Randy and Carol McIntosh of Sapulpa and Sandy and Joe Klika of Middleton, Idaho; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A public/memorial reception for friends TBA; and a family memorial service at Checotah.

Please, no cards or flowers at this time.

RAY WATSON

TULSA, Okla. — Ray Watson Jr., also known as: Angus, Suga Ray, Ray Ray and Uncle Rico went home to be with the Lord Oct. 17, 2016 in Tulsa.

He was born Jan. 7, 1969 in Henryetta to the late Ray Watson and Alice Micco Watson.

He was an avid sports fanatic and loved to talk statistics. He was always smiling no matter what he went through. He loved to travel to places such as Las Vegas and the Bahamas. He loved the outdoors and played Frisbee golf.

He rented movies with his nephew and loved music and dancing. He collected baseball cards, old money, hats and anything with Marilyn Monroe.

His girlfriend is Gwen Stefani and his wife is Marilyn Monroe. He was a jokester and loved his family. Everyone he met loved him. He was an organ donor and loved helping people. He is our hero.

His maternal grandparents: Hempsey Micco, Mattie Looney Micco Fisher. His paternal grandparents: John Watson, Fannie Fisher Watson.

He is survived by: Virginia Plenge and husband, David of Tulsa; Mr. Leon Watson and fiancée, Susan Doty of Okemah; Charlotte Watson and fiancé, Phil Watashe of Glenpool; Donna Kay Watson of Owasso; Phyllis Bencoma and husband, David of Weleetka.

His nieces: Alicia, Makesha, Kara, Tara Kay, Billie Rae, Felicia, Sabrina, Sophia. Nephews: Ronnie, Johny Ray, Micheal, Anthony. Nine great nieces, 12 great-nephews, two great-great-nieces and two great-great-nephews.

His aunts: Sarah Winney, Ann Hickey, Nell English, Rainey Marks, Aunt Bake, Sue Poe. Uncles: John Micco, Tommy Fisher, Frisco Micco, Rex Watson, Bub Sanders, Benny Watson, George Poe.

The pallbearers were: Ronnie Achzet, Johny Ray Watson, Michael Dunson, Robby Deere, Richy Cruce, David Canard, Rodney Scott and James Strainese.

The honorary pallbearers were: Kevin Watson, Julian Watson, Kelly Deere, Jonathan Bear, Frank Scott, (late) Jesse (Peanut) Scott and Ant Dunson.

The family and friends of Ray Watson Jr. would like to thank St. John's Hospital for taking good care of him. Thank you to Williamson/Spradlin Funeral Home, David Dunson and Scotty Harjo for the services. A big MVTO to Huttche Chuppa Church for all you did for us. And thank you to all his friends and family who were there. He was much loved and will be missed terribly

Native Bible study offered by mail

Discovery Bible School is offering a free Bible study by and for Natives called Native New Day.

They are sent by mail and those who are interested may contact us at P.O. Box 14208, Tulsa, OK 74159.



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MVSKOKEMEDIA

Mvskoke Media aims to be the voice of the Mvskoke people through the distribution of information to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation through its newspaper, radio show, TV broadcasts, graphic design and printing services.

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THE MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

THE OFFICIAL TRIBAL NEWSPAPER OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION • PRODUCED BY MVSKOKEMEDIA

NEW PROGRAM HELPS NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

PROGRAM SEEKS TO GET VETS BACK ON THEIR FEET

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program tries to thrive and find new ways to expand services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Earlier this year, RiP was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to help Native American citizens who are veterans and homeless.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Program Coordinator Deana Votra said one in four people who are homeless are veterans.

"We are not sure on the statistics of the veterans who are Native American," Votra said.

Requirements to the program state the person seeking services must be a veteran, Native American with Muscogee (Creek) preference and are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

"One other requirement is that the veteran will have to live in Creek Nation jurisdiction or consider moving into our boundaries," Votra said. "We can only supply services to people who live here in the jurisdiction."

Many people think that being homeless is sleeping and eating on the streets. Now while that is true, it is not the only definition to being homeless.

VETERANS – 4



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program offers a program to assist homeless Native American veterans. (MNN File Photo)



The current municipal flag for Tulsa, Okla. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

TULSANS WORK ON NEW FLAG DESIGN

GROUP TAKING INPUT SUBMISSIONS FOR A NEW TULSA FLAG

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla. — A group is working on the redesign of the Tulsa municipal flag.

It all began when Gitwit Principal Jacob Johnson saw a Ted Talk last year by Roman Mars.

Johnson said Mars talked about horribly designed municipal flags. The Tulsa flag was featured as a bad flag in the discussion.

"Ours he called bad for the

FLAG – 4



The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe hosted the Intertribal Stand Down for Native American veterans Nov. 4 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

INTERTRIBAL STAND DOWN HELD AT STATE CAPITAL

EVENT INFORMS NATIVE VETERANS OF SERVICES

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe hosted the Intertribal Stand Down for Native American veterans Nov. 4 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The Stand Down event was open to all tribal veterans who could make the trip to Oklahoma's heartland.

C&A Governor Eddie Hamil-

INTERTRIBAL – 8



Protesters gathered Nov. 10 at Veterans Park in downtown Tulsa, Okla. to rally for Standing Rock. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

NON-NATIVES SHOW SUPPORT FOR STANDING ROCK

PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES, BACKGROUNDS COME TOGETHER FOR LOCAL PROTEST

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla. — Hundreds of people gathered Nov. 10 at Veterans Park for the second protest in support of the protestors at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.

The protestors at the Standing Rock Reservation have been protesting against the Dakota Access Pipeline since the summer.

Natives are concerned that the pipeline will disrupt sacred burial sites and contaminate their drinking water.

If built, the Dakota Access pipeline will provide crude oil from Bakken and Three Forks in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois.

The individuals, who refer to themselves as protectors, have received support from non-Native individuals, who came out to show their support.

"I was reeling after the results of the election and this is a cause that I think is in major jeopardy. Anything we can do to come together as a community for things we believe in I think is important," Rena Detrixhe said.

She said that Native voices and Native people have been pushed aside for a while.

"I just think it's unbelievable that people who are peacefully protesting or protecting a resource like water are being treated the way they are," Detrixhe said.

Patrick Hayes said this is a cause that he wants to stand up for.

"As a Non-Native that's why it's important to be out here because I respect all people not some people," Patrick Hayes said.

The event had two individuals present from Kyrgyzstan in support of the rally.

"We heard about the meeting which will be going here and we came . . . Nature is very important for our country, also water is the beginning of all," Oxana Yanchenyuk said.

While many came out in support for the protestors at Standing Rock, there were some that came out in respect of the rally, but held an opposite opinion.

"I think that if you have a good tangible reason to be against it that's great, but I think that the media has stirred up this controversy and a lot of it is looking for cause and looking for something to be a part of without actually being informed as to what the pipeline actually is and where its actually located," Regan Robertson said.

Robertson said it was nice to see people coming together for a common cause.

"Whether I'm for it, against it, or indifferent. It's nice to see people willing to come together and talk about what they believe in peacefully," she said.

In November, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced they needed more information before deciding whether to allow the North Dakota Access Pipeline to be built.

EMVPONAYV: ONE WHO TELLS THE STORY

WOMEN LEADERS, PRESIDENT-ELECT STUFF, NATIVE 'MONTH'

by GARY FIFE
RADIO SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Did you know that Indian women are running the majority of the Native nonprofit agencies around the nation?

A new report by the American Indian think tank, First Nations Development Institute says the bulk of the Native American nonprofit organizations are largely headed by women.

According to author Raymond Foxworth, "Native American Women, Leadership and the Native American Non-Profit Sector" documents that around 61 percent of Native nonprofit organizations are headed by women, compared to only about 45 percent of other nonprofits nationally. It suggests that the Native nonprofit sector seems to be doing a better job with issues of gender and equity than the national nonprofit sector.

OK guys, time to get your butts in gear and catch up, or just let things go as they are? Native women seem to be doing a pretty good job.

Hey baseball fans, could you imagine going through the next year looking at that atrocious 'Chief Wahoo' all over the place if the Cleveland team won the World Series? Who knows, maybe the Power Greater Than All Baseball Fans decided not to let them win because of it?

The Water Protectors in North Dakota are still holding their ground against completion of the Dakota Access Project. President Barack Obama helped out by asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review its studies in

EMVPONAYV – 6



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant announced preparation and information nights to recruit young Mvskoke women to participate in the pageant. (Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist)

MCN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT ANNOUNCES INFORMATION NIGHTS

EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

by CHELSIE RICH
PROJECT SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Pageant announced preparation and information nights to recruit young Mvskoke women to participate in the pageant.

Starting last year, the scholarship pageant committee developed information nights to help spread the word of the opportunities that the scholarship pageant has to offer.

"Our whole motive was to recruit applicants because we know that there's lots of youth in all these communities and we was really trying to focus on encouraging youth leaders to take the opportunity to run," MCN Scholarship Pageant Chairman Terra Beaver said.

As stated in the application, the MCN Scholarship Pageant provides an educational opportunity for young Mvskoke women.

Miss and Jr. Miss MCN promote MCN as goodwill ambassadors during their yearlong reign through various educational, social, cultural and public appearances as well as speaking engagements.

"The whole process is developing their self confidence, public speaking skills, expand their knowledge of Mvskoke history, customs," Beaver said.

The information nights were designed to help or inform participants who are thinking about running for the title.

"It'll give young ladies an opportunity to come and get help on completing the application, expectations for the pageant," MCN Scholarship Pageant Vice-Chairman Nancy Mason said.

The information nights give participants the chance to visit with past royalty, learn how to prepare their platforms and are given knowledge about impromptu questions.

"We hope it will be really for those who aren't sure if they want to do this or not," Mason said. "Give them a little more information about what it's going to be."

The Jr. Miss division is for high school students ages 14-16 and the Miss division is for attending or enrolled higher education students ages 17-24.

The Jr. Miss winner will receive a $1,500 cash prize and the Miss winner will receive a $2,500 cash prize as well as a $2,500 scholarship.

The winners will both receive a beaded crown and a silver crown, a cedar crown box, woven basket purse, Mvskoke traditional clothing, plaque, Pendleton blanket, two matching banners, personalized luggage, flower bouquet, professional photo shoot and traveling opportunities as a goodwill ambassador of MCN.

The information nights will be held at the following locations from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

November 15- Koweta Indian Community Center
December 6- Glenpool Indian Community Center
December 20- Holdenville Indian Community Center
January 17- Muscogee Indian Community Center
January 31- Dewar Indian Community Center
February 7- Okemah Indian Community Center
February 21- Eufaula Indian Community Center

For more information or to request an application call: 918-549-2557, or visit: www.tinyurl.com/MCNPageant.

The pageant application deadline is Feb. 28.

Applications can be emailed to to: MCNPageant@mcn-nsn.gov, or mailed to the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services: Attn: MCN Scholarship Pageant, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.



Wetumka High School Native American Club participants attend the University of Oklahoma's Annual Indian Youth Career Day Sept. 26 in Norman, Okla. (Submission)

NATIVE YOUTH EXPERIENCE OU CAMPUS LIFE

GRANT ESTABLISHED FOR ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO SEEK HIGHER EDUCATION

by CHELSIE RICH
PROJECT SPECIALIST

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training State/Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Program had the opportunity to take students to the University of Oklahoma's Annual Indian Youth Career Day Sept. 26 in Norman.

"The STEP Grant is a state, tribal educational partnership that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and it's a grant for four years," STEP Program Education Specialist Laurisa Soap said. Soap said the grant is more focused towards administrative functions in the public schools.

She said it has also allowed them to work with the Academic Development Institute in finding different ways to improve family engagement in schools as well as developing leadership teams and a Native youth council.

"We have partnered with the Native American Club so we're able to come in and help the students, work with them directly," Soap said.

The STEP program collaborates with Weleetka and Wetumka High Schools and was able to take 19 Native students to attend the event.

'The event was attended by students ages 15-18 as a way to promote college and career readiness through cultural workshops and provide an opportunity for students to tour the campus and experience college life,' STEP Program Project Coordinator Sarah Price stated in writing.

The students got a firsthand experience of what college life would be like if they chose to further their education.

"It's more preparing them for college and being given information on how scholarship and the whole application process works," Soap said. "Also providing them with different career options, different degrees they could go into at OU."

The high school students had the opportunity to meet and talk with college students that are earning a degree in Native American studies at OU.

"I think the majority haven't been on a college campus before," Soap said. "Especially when we took the tour they were trying to figure out, 'this is what campus life is like?' "

Attendee Kristopher Herrod is a sophomore at Wetumka and said he visited a college campus before he was 15-years-old.

Herrod spoke about what he got to experience that day and about his favorite session, 'Keeping It Real.'

"Got to have a bunch of sessions to tell what college is all about," Herrod said. "It really explained what college was really like," Herrod said.

Herrod said his future plans are to go to college at OU or Virginia Tech and earn a bachelor's degree in business and marketing.



Muscogee (Creek) citizens at the Estuce Fest at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. (Submission)

MCN HOLDS FIRST ESTUCE FEST

EVENT HOPES TO HELP REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY RATE

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Child and Youth Coalition held its first ever Estuce Fest Nov. 3 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. Estuce in the Creek language means baby.

MCN Young Child Wellness Expert Erica Ridgely said the community shower was for Muscogee (Creek) citizens with a child two-years-old and younger, or for expecting families.

"Several of us have been involved in planning community baby showers at the county level. Like Okmulgee County, Creek County, Okfuskee County, McIntosh County," she said. "They've been having them for a few years now that is usually funded by state funding. So we wanted to do our own tribal one and reach out to our tribal citizens."

Ridgely said another reason that inspired this event was because the infant mortality rate in Oklahoma is one of the highest in the nation.

"Infant mortality rate is the number of babies that die per 1,000 babies per year," she said.

Ridgely said the community baby shower is to help lower infant mortality rate.

"It is funded by the National Council. We asked for an appropriation from them and so we got approved. So most of the money comes from that," she said.

NCA 16 – 145 Appropriated $5,000 to help the Mvskoke Tribal Child and Youth Coalition establish a yearly Estuce Fest.

Council Rep. Dode Barnett said the amendment passed, but TCYC will only receive funds for this year's Estuce Fest.

"We hope to have it be an annual event. Hopefully next year we can go and ask the National Council again for another appropriation or possibly be in the yearly budget," Ridgely said.

She said this not only benefits the community by helping families to have safe and healthy pregnancies but also helps them to get connected to resources.

"They'll really just get to learn a lot of different things, to raise a baby in a happy healthy environment and how to take care of themselves too as new parents," Ridgely said.

Citizens had to pre-register online or call prior to the event to secure their spot at the event.

Ridgely said the event included guest speaker Minnie Proctor, who gave a traditional story on clans and families.

She said they also accepted families that foster Muscogee (Creek) children.

Ridgely said Neals Furniture and the Project Launch grant donated door prizes.

THE MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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#REALTALK

FROST MONTH, NATIVE AMERICAN DAY AND THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

by JASON SALSMAN
MULTIMEDIA PRODUCER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — So another November has come and gone. Ah, November... or as we Creeks call it, "Ehole" or "frost." Which is incredibly ironic because I didn't see hardly any of it.

Is global warming going to necessitate a change in Creek custom? Stay tuned.

There's something else that November is called by Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees. Best. Month. Ever.

See "Frost" month, err green grass and 80 degrees month, has 30 days in it. Four of those 30 are holidays for MCN employees, which for you mathematicians is 13 percent of the time. Not bad at all.

It's a little tough for us on the 'Native News Today' team because it means shorter production schedules on an already airtight deadline. But you'll never hear me complain, mostly, because one of those days is Native American Day, which is our alternative to Columbus Day.

We get to replace Columbus Day, how satisfying. While the majority of folks out there praise the man that "discovered America," we Native Americans have the luxury of knowing what the textbooks won't tell our kids.... that we discovered HIM, lost and starving to boot.

But it's entirely possible that the only thing we'll ever remember from November 2016 was the end of the U.S. presidential campaign. Yes, the conclusion of the worst reality TV we are likely ever to see.

It ended with what many stecates fear is the ascension of the next Andrew Jackson. Politically speaking, Natives see President-elect Donald Trump as a disastrous opponent of Indian Country.

See I don't like fear mongering from either side until there's proof. I cringed every time someone was certain that Obama would "take our guns" without having any tangible evidence of that being the case at all.

Let's see what kind of president he'll actually be for Indian Country. As far as I can tell, he's much like all the other U.S. politicians we've seen come and go, meaning not enough of a care about Native issues to even address them.

There's no mention of Natives in a platform, heck one of the only sitting presidents to ever visit a tribal reservation was just in 2014. Tribal news outlets and citizens on social media nearly block out downtown and have a parade when Native people are mentioned in a public forum or political address. But is that enough?

I'd rather them ACT, not just throw us a bone in some speech. President Obama has been praised from tribal organizations from far and wide, including the National Congress of American Indians, for being one of Indian Country's best friends. But wasn't he president when Natives were being rounded up and arrested with numbers marked on their arms and dogs attacking them for protecting water at Standing Rock?

The last eight years also saw packed stadiums cheering on the Redskins, Braves and Indians. My point is, because we seem to have no control over the outcome of elections, appointees and executive decisions, let's focus on controlling the things we can.

Let's start in our communities. The voter turnout for Muscogee (Creek) elections has, and continues to be, embarrassing. How can so many be vocal about the happenings on the national scene when the community and local governments are so neglected?

Too many of our youth, our best and brightest stars for the future, are burning out. Suicide is an epidemic in Indian Country, and our young people now more than ever need leadership, mentors and a sense of belonging in both worlds that they live in.

Who steps up and sees to it that they aren't left to feel destined for doom, but instead are destined for great things.

Here at MCN we are on the way up. The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council was voted the top organization of it's kind this year in Oklahoma. There are young people willing to lead, willing to stand. Will we continue to encourage them? I certainly hope so.

This past month there was a men's summit here in Okmulgee with the focus being our men being mentors and role models for the youth. Efforts like these and the amount of support they receive are what's going to insure the proud legacy of our people continues on.

Our Family Violence Prevention Program continues to make the respect of women a demand. I have no doubt they are empowered by the opportunity to rise up and continue that fight, even with our next commander-in-chief on record seeming to be a person that doesn't share the same respect.

So chin up, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all of Indian Country, our future has always been and will always be autonomous. We are proud, strong, resilient and most importantly sovereign.

Native languages are still spoken, Native art is still created, Native songs are still sang, Native grounds are still dancing and Native preachers are still preaching. The scene in Washington, D.C. won't ever change that. Hvtvm cehecares!



DELAUNE'S CORNER: CHANGE, ALWAYS AROUND, ALWAYS THERE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hello, hello and hello. How are you all doing? Wow, we are at the end of 2016. The seasons changed like Oklahoma weather patterns.

Which today readers, is the subject for your column. Change.

From the Webster's Dictionary, change means to become different, to make someone or something become something else.

Honestly, I hate the word and what it stands for. Although there are changes that are good, it is made to get someone out of the norm.

That is my problem. I cannot stand when something changes. It goes against what is easy and what I am use to.

There are people that do like change and welcome it. I, on the other hand do not.

For example, a place near and dear to my heart is closing down. The owners want to take a break, which is very understandable. They have a family and they want to spend more time together.

With me being a client of the place, I do not want it to shut down. The memories there are remarkable. The friendships I have made there are everlasting. I fear once this place is gone I lose them. It is very selfish of me and I know this.

I love the place so much and do not want it to close.

Like it or not, change cannot be avoided. It has to come, but what can you do with it? You can either accept and go forward, or do your best to avoid it, but change is still coming.

Why do people such as myself not like change? From an article I read, it said we are creatures of habit.

We do the same thing over and over again, and from that it turns into a normal thing, being comfortable and complacent.

There are things that I do that help me with change. I tell myself that it is a challenge to accept the change and go from there.

This reminds me that it is a challenge to master and move on, which goes into another part of the article that I was reading about.

It said that while we are creatures of habit, we are also creatures of change and adaptation, which means we can take on the change and tailor it to make it suitable for us.

We can do what we can to make the best out of it. We can do what we know to help make the situation better, which is adapting to change.

Here it is everyone, quote time. The people that said these quotes summed it up on how everyone needs to deal with change.

The first one is from a British philosopher by the name of Alan Watts. He said, 'The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it and join the dance.'

That does take time for me on certain things, but he is right. That is the best way to handle it.

The next quote is from another philosopher who goes by the name of Heraclitus. His quote is, 'The only thing constant is change.'

Again, like it or not change is coming. It is inevitable.

So, stated from earlier, while the place I have grown to love is closing, it does not mean I lose the people or the memories involved. I will still be in touch and they are going to be around.

There will be other places to frequent and chances are, I will see my friends there and we will be all smiles and pick up where we left off.

Change, if positive can always stay a positive, if negative can somehow turn into a positive.

While we do not know what is in store for everyone, we do know that we all can rise above any circumstances. We can adapt to the change and make it our own. We might not know what to do at that moment but over time we will.

What is the change in your life? Is it positive? Can you make it positive? Let's find out.

I love you all. Take care.

VETERANS

Continued from Page 1

Votra said homelessness can mean living on the street or in transitional living centers.

"It could also mean living with parents, grandparents or could be sleeping on someone's couch," Votra said. "We consider homeless as not having a stable residence of your own."

There are other organizations who help veterans, but the HVRP is the first to help Native American veterans.

Votra is collaborating and spreading news of the program by word of mouth to get the program off the ground and find the veterans who are in need of services.

"Our program is still in the beginning phases," Votra said. "Not a lot of veterans do know about us but we are doing what we can to get the word out."

She said the program also refers clients to other needed services.

"We have other organizations refer clients to us and we tell our clients about what other programs and their services."

The program will be located within the RiP building, but Votra said that her program is mobile.

"I do a lot of travel," Votra said. "A lot of organizations do let me use a room in their building to help a client."

The RiP building is located at: 615 E. Corporation, Henryetta, OK.

One veteran who served in the U.S. Army, is currently using the services from HVRP said he is happy he has found the services and is not sure where his life would be if he did not know about it.

For confidentiality reasons, he asked the 'Muscogee Nation News' not to share his name.

He was laid off from his previous employment before he found the HVRP.

"They helped me pretty quick," he said. "With school and employment, everything fell into place."

He also said a lot of veterans will not ask for help. He understands that it is dealing with pride, but if there are people out there willing to help a veteran to get back on their feet, he said it is a good opportunity to take.

"This time, people do actually want to take care of their veterans," he said.

For more information, contact Deana Votra at: 918-652-2676.

FLAG

Continued from Page 1

reason of you couldn't even really see what it was when it was flying a hundred feet in the air," he said.

As Johnson and his friend Joey Wignarajah did more research on the Tulsa flag, they discovered that it was copyrighted.

Johnson said this limited individuals that would want to make or even distribute the Tulsa flag.

"So we had two reasons why our flag was kind of being limited as a good symbol for Tulsa. We saw that and we really started to think about the power of a well-designed flag and what it could do as a symbol for Tulsa," he said. "Other than the golden driller we couldn't really come up with anything. So that's what kicked the whole thing off. We started chatting about it a year ago and that was the precipice for the entire thing was seeing a need."

Johnson and his team at Gitwit took the initiative to start a campaign for a new municipal flag.

"Our team here, we've got 18 people. We're donating all of our time to it," he said.

After seeing a need for an updated flag, Johnson wanted to include the input of the Tulsa community for a new municipal flag.

"So what we decided what we wanted to do was open it up for people to tell us what they thought should be on the flag. And I certainly think that the Native American involvement in the founding of our city is an important piece of the story," he said.

> *"We want then the Tulsa population to decide which flag they feel best represents our city."* **- GITWIT PRINCIPAL JACOB JOHNSON**

Johnson said he cannot give exact results on what will be on the flag.

"But we're getting a lot of feedback about the founding story of the tribes coming together underneath the Council Oak tree," he said.

The deadline for the input campaign was at the end of November.

Johnson said the next step is for local designers to create designs based on the community's input.

"So we've got a hand selected team and then we will actually be then taking submissions . . . we will have some pretty strict rules around the submissions as to the types of submissions we will take and the reasoning's they have to have behind them," he said. "But then each individual designer will get to decide what of that community input they put in to their flags."

Designers will have the month of December to design a flag.

Design selections will happen January 2017.

Johnson said that a panel will decide what flag designs the community can vote for in February.

"We want the process to be very much driven by community input and then for the community to decide," he said.

Johnson said the design panel will make sure that the flag designs follow the guidelines of vexillology, which is the study of flags.

"We want then the Tulsa population to decide which flag they feel best represents our city," he said.

Johnson hopes that by February people can vote on a new flag design.

He said they will present the community voted flag to city council.

"Ultimately they have to approve it or else it won't become the official City of Tulsa flag. And that's our goal is to get it to become the official City of Tulsa flag," Johnson said.

He said they have been communicating with the government about the process.

"We've received nothing but positive support from city council, from the incoming Mayor G.T. Bynum," Johnson said.

Johnson said that they are trying to make sure that they reach all the districts equally so that everyone has the opportunity to be a part of the input and selection process.

"So we've really tried to not only be inclusive with our process but go out of our way to make sure that this flag is something that everyone has an opportunity to be involved with . . . and more importantly representative of all of Tulsa not just a smaller segment of Tulsa," he said.

The campaign is funded through a grant and donations.

They applied for a grant with Tulsa Young Professionals Foundation and were awarded $7,500.

He said they have raised enough money to match the $7,500 grant.

Johnson said Tulsa Young Professionals created a foundation to help fund initiatives that would help make Tulsa a better place.

For more information on the campaign visit: www.facebook.com/flagtulsa.

Follow them on Instagram (@tulsaflag) and Twitter (@tulsaflag) for updates.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kara Wolfe gets her lesson plan ready for the day at Sasakwa Public Schools in Sasakwa, Okla. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

CITIZEN TALKS ABOUT CAREER AS TEACHER

WOLFE SHARES HER STORY, GOALS

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

SASAKWA, Okla. — From the beginning, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kara Wolfe had a general idea what direction she wanted to take with her career choice.

"I love working with children," Kara said. "At first, I wanted to be a pediatrician but I was not sure that I wanted to spend that many years in school to be one."

From this, Kara decided the best choice for her was teaching and she enrolled in classes at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee.

"This is what I thought would be best for me," Kara said.

Kara is now teaching second grade at Sasakwa Public Schools and is in the fifth year of her career. She previously taught at Okmulgee Public Schools.

Kara said she has her degree and is certified in elementary education. Kara also took testing in early childhood education and taught kindergarten when she started at Okmulgee schools.

"It was great teaching kindergarten but I wanted my students just a little bit older, such as first and second grade children," Kara said.

Because of this, her younger sister Rikki Wolfe told her about a position open for teaching second grade at Sasakwa.

"I applied, and got the teaching job here," Kara said. "It is great because it is the grades that I prefer to teach."

Kara said she grew up in Okmulgee but went to a smaller school as a child, similar to where she is now in Sasakwa.

"I grew up and graduated in a small school and I wanted to get back to my roots," she said.

Kara said she gets a feeling of togetherness in the smaller communities.

"It is great because of even though they go to a higher grade next year, I still get to see the students and they still walk by and say 'hi' to me," she said. "In a bigger school, I am afraid that I would not see them as much."

Kara said another positive with teaching at Sasakwa is that she gets to be closer to her younger sister Rikki.

Rikki teaches seventh and eighth grade language arts and reading. She is also head coach for the high school girls' basketball team. Kara is her assistant coach.

"It is great that I get to work with her now," Rikki said. "We always wanted to work together after we both became teachers and we felt that this was the right time."

Rikki said they also live together and bring out nothing but the best in each other.

"I tell her that she is my rock," Rikki said. "She is always the strong one and the person I go to when I need to someone to lean on."

Rikki said that Kara has been a great addition to the basketball team.

Rikki said when her mind is all over the place, Kara keeps her cool, calms her down and gets things under control.

"I always take her opinion in the highest regard because she might see something that I will not see during the game," Rikki said.

Kara could not point out a particular moment that stands out in her career and said the little ones with her students always come to mind.

"They (students) always draw me pictures that say, 'You're the best,' or 'I love you,' and I keep those," Kara said. "They have no idea how much those mean to me."

Kara has a goal for all of her students.

"Overall I want my students to learn everything they can from me," she said. "Not only academics but how to be an outstanding citizen and a great student for the next grades."



(Shutterstock Image)

COUPLE FINDS STRENGTH IN RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING

TANF LIFTS FAMILY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

by JESSICA MCBRIDE
MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — There is a proverb that says, 'when it rains, it pours.' When we as humans experience difficult times, we always hope that there will be a rainbow gleaming through as the dark clouds part.

Sometimes the tale starts with a love story, which is true in the case of Kenneth and Faren Lively.

Kenneth lost his job and Faren was given an ultimatum from her employer after encountering some difficult and uncomfortable situations at her job.

"Well they basically told her she could choose the job or she could choose me, and at the time, we were very much in love and she chose me," Kenneth said.

Kenneth and Faren tried to get work other places but found it difficult.

The Lively's experienced more heartbreak, losing a child to stillbirth and another in miscarriage.

Faren said this put strain on their relationship.

"I kind of shut down from him and I wasn't really open to him or talking to him," she said.

Kenneth agreed.

"It was very difficult to be happy for a while. We just went through some serious mourning," he said.

Seeking assistance is something they did not want to do.

"... but it was like a last resort. We felt like we were put into a position to where if we didn't, then it was just going to be a very, very horrible situation for us and the two kids that we had at that time," Kenneth said.

They decided to find help through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

As part of the plan to get back on their feet, Kenneth and Faren agreed to take part in the program's relationship counseling, which is voluntary for participants.

"It seemed like something that could really help us. I didn't really see anybody that we knew in our lives that could really act as a good mediator and we just felt like, 'what is it we can lose,' going into it," Kenneth said.

They decided that the counseling could help them work as a productive team.

Prior to the program, Kenneth and Faren rated their relationship as a four or five on a scale of one-10. They now rate their relationship at an eight.

"I think more it wasn't so much about what she (counselor) brought up, it was just a matter of her helping us to strategically improve on the things that we knew, give us kind of pointers and also help us to communicate better with one another," Kenneth said.

Kenneth has a new job to help support the family.

The Livelys also brought a baby boy into the world, who is now two-years-old.

"We basically feel like he's our little miracle," Kenneth said.

Faren takes care of him and her other two children.

The Livelys say they are now on a better pathway financially and in their relationship.

"They genuinely want to help you and that connects with the whole TANF program in itself... They really want to help. They really want to try to help the couple and to help the family so that they can really take care of themselves and be completely independent and strong as a family and as a couple," Kenneth said.

MCN TANF Community Resource Coordinator Tolissa Autry discussed TANF's relationship counseling program in a written statement.

'MCN Tribal TANF program continues to seek ways to help TANF families advance. Research has shown that healthy relationships are crucial to achieving safety, stability and self-sufficiency. To encourage relationship strengthening, the TANF program is excited to offer our participants "Advancing Together," a health relationship initiative,' she said.

Autry said the participants take an initial online assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses. TANF then meets multiple times with the couple to discuss the test, highlighting strengths and helping to develop weaknesses into strengths.

'As a program, we are pleased to have the opportunity to provide such service to our participants as strengthening relationship is a foundation for supporting stable family environments and the well-being of parents and children. We appreciate our participants' participation, allowing us into their homes, and trusting us,' Autry said.

For more information on TANF, call: 918-732-7985 or visit: www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/tanf/.

NCAIED'S

40 under 40

THREE CITIZENS LISTED AS NCAIED'S 40 UNDER 40

INSPIRATION, MOTIVATION AND DRIVING FACTORS PUSH INDIVIDUALS TO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by JESSICA MCBRIDE
MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Three Muscogee (Creek) citizens were recognized by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development as part of the '40 Under 40' Emerging American Indian Leaders.

According to the NCAIED website, the award is given to nominated Native Americans under the age of 40, 'who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication and made significant contributions in business and their community.'



SARAI GEARY

Sarai describes herself as intrinsically motivated. Her journey began growing up outside of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries, one she said was not always easy.

She completed her GED, and was a teen, single mom, sometimes working three jobs at a time. Sarai went to community college and eventually graduated from law school.

Sarai said she took the bar exam three times before she finally made a passing score.

"Nothing that I've done with my life is unachievable. I feel like anyone can do it," she said. "If I can do it, anyone can do it because I just was not that person that was so great at school or just had it really easy. Everything was a challenge."

She completed summer internships with MCN, and felt drawn to serve her Nation as an employee.

Sarai landed a job as the MCN Community Research and Development director, and used her law background to assist MCN chartered communities with legal questions.

"It's just been very rewarding ever since I started working around the tribe," she said.

She later worked on the federal level with the U.S. Department of Energy, but always found herself being drawn back to work with MCN.

Sarai said she finds her happiness in her career and is driven by helping make a difference in the lives of others.

"My job is always such a huge part of my life... I want to feel my contribution is something greater than myself, which I feel like it is around here working for the tribe," she said.

She is passionate about the criminal justice system and is excited to be a problem solver for her clients and part of the solution.

Sarai currently works as a Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma staff attorney, and specifically works with MCN Reintegration Program clients.

She assists with resolving civil legal barriers for post-incarcerated clients who are re-entering society such as fines and family issues like divorce and child custody.

"I feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives. I know what it's like to give up when things get hard and when people are getting out of prison they have a lot of barriers," Sarai said. "And for me to be able to help them with those barriers and encourage them to keep fighting and keep struggling to make it... that makes me feel good."

Sarai said she enjoys developing policy when she is not with a client and keeping up to date on new laws and regulations.

Sarai is inspired by other Muscogee (Creek) women like MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett and former MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles.

She would like to write a book about re-entering society from the criminal justice system, and continue progressing as an attorney.

In her spare time, she enjoys participating in cultural and community activities.



ROJER JOHNSON

Rojer typically begins his daily grind around 5 a.m. He eases into the morning with a cup of coffee and some stretching.

The first person he sees every day is his son, Otto or his wife, Leona. Both, he said keeps him striving forward.

Some days he returns home at 5:30 p.m., and some days it is well into the evening.

As the recreation manager for MCN Tourism and Recreation, he must sometimes stay after the workday has ended to set up and tear down for events that utilize the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

Rojer said he sometimes maneuvers details while going 1,000 miles per hour in many different directions.

"It's a lot to keep up with for sure, but that's what keeps me going... I don't do idle," he said.

In his work, Rojer said he is constantly working to improve and expand.

"I definitely want to be somebody that my son can look up to. That's a huge driving force," he said. "And somebody that my family can look at and be proud of."

In Rojer's spare time, he enjoys reading, drawing, working out and hanging out with his 'little man.' His favorite comic book character is the Incredible Hulk.

He said the most influential person in his life was his late grandfather, who taught him everything.

Rojer said he hopes his grandfather would be proud of what Rojer has accomplished and aspired to be.

His advice to others is to be selfless.

"Number one, you never do anything on your own. Plain and simple..." he said. "The people I work with, I mean they all contribute to what's going on here. We have a lot of good endeavors we move on and I mean I can't take credit for all of it."

Rojer said paying attention to the way you treat others is imperative, along with work ethic.

"Work hard. Work really hard. When you're dog tired, keep working," he said.

Rojer's day ends similar to how it begins, with the encouragement of his wife and son.



TRAVIS THOMPSON

Travis defines himself primarily by his faith in God, and referenced Proverbs 13:22 for his desire to work hard and leave a legacy of ethics and morals.

'A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous,' the proverb states.

The former youth minister and current MCN Casinos compliance director said he has followed the work ethic set forth by his grandfather and father.

"I think that really set a precedent for the way that I try to work myself," he said.

Travis said their personalities and Christian character left a mark on his life, and he is inspired by who they are and what they have accomplished.

"They are my inspiration to live and walk that walk that they have set before me," he said.

Travis said he wants to continue to work for and give back to the Nation until retirement.

"I want to absolutely be here until the day that I say, 'it's time for me to step down. There's somebody that can fulfill the things that I've done and hopefully continue on and leave a legacy behind in that," he said.

He said it is important to share his ethics and morals and teach those that will take his place in the future.

"Giving direction to younger kids, to coworkers, anything else like that that you can set first and foremost as a foundation to say, 'this is who I am. This is what I'm about and this is what I believe in,' and striving to live that every single day, no matter what capacity you're in, you're going to be successful if you do it that way," Travis said.

He encouraged others to be the best employee they can possibly be.

"First and foremost, put in your time, show up to work, do what you're supposed to do and when there's an opportunity to go above and beyond, do it and do those things for other people," Travis said. "I think that's important in our business culture. I think it's important in life..."

He said God has blessed him with many things, including his job.

Travis said when he is not at work, he is a homebody.

He takes in the countryside scenery in the morning and watches the cattle graze in the pasture.

In the evenings, Travis relishes a family dinner while catching up on his daughters' school days, and when he gets a chance, he amuses himself with his hobby of restoring cars.

Travis is a member of Henryetta Church of Christ.



College of Muscogee Nation Health instructor Bobbie Coon tending to edamame beans being grown in the CMN campus greenhouse in Okmulgee, Okla. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

COLLEGE USING GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN AS LEARNING TOOL

STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS LEARN TO LIVE OFF OF LAND

by DARREN DELAUNE

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of Muscogee Nation was awarded a rural development grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the summer of 2014.

"This grant, along with the greenhouse and garden," CMN Research Specialist Lacey Azbell said.

Why a greenhouse?

CMN instructor Norma Marshall used to have projects for her students and one of these was a cultural garden.

Azbell said this had to be removed to make way for the CMN Student Center.

"The garden ended up being covered by the road for the construction crews," Azbell said.

Because of that, the idea was to apply for community facilities grants to provide a permanent place for the garden.

"That is where the discussion started," Azbell said.

Azbell said the greenhouse is used to grow year-round and provide a hands-on learning tool for students.

A summary from the grant support application stated that the project is to provide the students as well as tribal citizens and community members, a forum for intergenerational sharing of knowledge that is relating to traditional Mvskoke gardening with an emphasis on using Mvskoke heirloom seed stock.

CMN Health Instructor Bobbie Coon said part of what they are looking to grow is the 'Three Sisters,' which referred to corn, squash and beans in the Mvskoke homelands.

"Those three work together and can grow, in harmony," Coon said. "Those do grow together in a strong group."

Coon explained the relationship.

"They can live off of each other," Coon said. "The squash can help with the corn stalks and beans provide nitrogen to both plants."

Coon and Azbell said they are still developing the garden, which will include the 'Three Sisters.'

"We do have squash but we also have pumpkin and sweet potato," Azbell said.

Coon said they also grow tomato, lettuce, cucumbers and peppers.

Azbell said they do not use pesticides.

Coon has been tending to the garden along with the students who are in work-study, who look over it daily.

"It serves more as an outside learning classroom," she said. "We want them to know how to collect seeds, plant seeds, taking care of everything. A lot did not realize how much goes into gardening."

While the Student Center took over the original garden, the new one provides food that is served at the center.

"We have a sign that lets the students know that there are some of their food that came from the garden," Azbell said.

Coon said they donate excess yields to the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee or for certain events.

Coon remembers maintaining her father's garden growing up.

"That is where I learned," Coon said.

For more information on the greenhouse and garden, call: 918-549-2800.

EMVPONAYV

Continued from Page 1

the project.

But all that could be gone quickly if the incoming President-elect Donald Trump decides to push it through. We'll see. Native protectors have vowed to stay, but that brutal North Dakota winter is just around the corner.

Speaking of the incoming President-to-Be, one of the big items on his agenda was to build a wall along the border with Mexico and make them pay for it. Well, that wall could have a 75-mile hole in it when it comes to the land of the Tohono O'odam, whose reservation runs along that border in Arizona. They say no.

Tribal members have gone back and forth across the border to visit family and other purposes for centuries. If that wall ever gets built, I'll bet their reservation could see a lot more 'relatives' showing up there.

Are any of you "IndigiNerds?" Native computer geeks and comic book fans? If so, there is a "Comic-Con" just for you. Well, "Indigenous Comic-Con" to be precise.

Where? National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, N.M. Native superheroes and like other conventions, there were guest discussion panels, costumed spectators and vendor tables.

And... guess what? You just missed it. It was scheduled for the third week of November, but don't worry, organizers plan to do it again next year.

More information can be found at: www.indigenous-comiccon.com.

My favorite illustration was a painting of two Imperial AT-ATs (All-Terrain Armored Transport) strolling through the desert in Monument Valley.

It was National Native American Month in November. MCN took the 21st off instead of Columbus Day. I flew my Creek Flag on my lawn and got a couple puzzled looks from the neighbors, but not much else. Some 'Month,' huh?

Oh well, the cable channel has been running "Dances With Wolves" all month for folks who didn't get out of the recliner. Remember "DumbBear?"

The Christmas season is upon us again. Where did the year go? Remember there will be many programs asking for support for families and little children. Remember that it was a family and a baby born in a stable that got all this started. Hope you can find it in your hearts to help someone out. That's the real Christmas spirit.

Afvcke Nettv Cakko Rakko —Merry Christmas!



The Okfuskee County Coordinated Community Response Team toured the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners facilities located at the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah, Okla. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

OKFUSKEE COUNTY CCR TEAM TOURS MCN SANE FACILITIES

PROGRAM HOPES TO HELP VICTIMS, LAW ENFORCEMENT

by DARREN DELAUNE

REPORTER

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program along with the MCN Department of Health were showing the Okfuskee County Coordinated Community Response Team the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners room Oct. 28 located at the MCN Community Hospital in Okemah.

The tour included information on how the SANE nurse and services can be accessed when needed.

The CCR team consists of people who are involved in domestic violence and sexual assault issues such as local law enforcement, the district attorney's office and advocates.

According to the International Association of Forensic Nurses, SANE nurses are registered nurses who have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse.

"We are the ones who do the examination for someone who had been sexually assaulted," MCN SANE Program Manager Lena Pizzolato said.

Pizzolato said there is already one SANE examiner's room located within the MCN jurisdiction at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee.

They wanted to have another one within the boundaries to help make it easier for any law enforcement officers or victims so they do not have to drive a great distance.

Okfuskee County Associate District Judge David Martin is pleased to have a SANE room in Okemah due to the fact that in the past they had to take victims to other towns for examination.

"We had to send victims to other facilities located in Shawnee (Okla.) and other areas that are great distances," Martin said. "This is a step forward."

Okfuskee County Sheriff Darryl Summers said that it will help keep their deputies in the county with the exam room close to them.

"It is a big plus for our deputies here because it reduces the drive time dramatically," Martin said.

Pizzolato explained there are certain protocols that the SANE nurses go through and a certain amount of hours of training they are required to have.

Summers said the same goes for law enforcement.

The officers understand that every piece of every item, whether it is clothing, can be used as evidence in a sexual assault or rape case.

"There are classes that our deputies do have to take involving sexual assault," Summers said. "It is a certain amount of hours but it teaches our officers and gives them the protocol on what they have to do from the beginning to the end."

According to information passed out to those in attendance, the SANE program can evaluate an adult or adolescent victim whose assault has occurred within the previous five days.

SANE exams can be provided to anyone regardless of race or ethnicity.

The program provides a collaborative effort by a SANE nurse and an advocate, and adult victims are not required to report to law enforcement to receive services.

If you need immediate assistance from SANE, contact: 918-732-7979.

"It is answered 24/7 by a live person. You will never get a recording," Pizzolato said.



A Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Driveways crew works on a grave Sept. 27 at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka, Okla. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

MCN TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS PROVIDES GRAVE DIGGING SERVICE

PROGRAM HELPS WITH CITIZEN BURIALS

by HONEY CARANZO

REPORTER

WETUMKA, Okla. — It is not uncommon to drive past a graveyard in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction and see the MCN Tribal Driveways crew digging a grave at the crack of dawn.

Tribal Driveways Supervisor Jimmy Basquez has worked on burial matters since 1995 and he said it was originally a side program.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs website, the BIA provides burial assistance for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

According to the MCN website, citizens can apply for this assistance through the MCN Social Services BIA Burial Program and funds can also be applied for through the MCN Burial Program.

The funds will go directly to the funeral home.

"Usually the same time they come up to social services and start the paperwork for the assistance. Usually they will make contact while they are at the social services office and let us know," Basquez said.

He said the information they need to proceed with the grave digging is identity of the deceased, the name and number of a person receiving assistance and where and when will the funeral be held.

Basquez said he and his crew typically start their work early in the morning to prepare graves for funerals.

"99 percent of the time, we come out here on a grave opening day versus going to the office," Basquez said.

He said sometimes they have up to three graves to dig in a day and they are not always in close proximity.

"And there's enough of us . . . that we can send two trucks out because a lot of times you can't make it in enough time to do both, so you've got to split everybody up," Basquez said.

He said that families are occasionally present during the dig.

Basquez said in Oklahoma the legal depth that you have to bury someone is four-and-a-half feet.

"Very seldom do they go six foot anymore," he said.

Basquez said many of the vault companies lowering devices do not dig as far as six feet anymore.

However, if the vault company knows that they have to dig further than four-and-a-half feet, they have different cables or straps that they can use.

"Of course by that time, we know if we have to come back and close it or if they're going to hand cover it," he said.

He said that some families take care of covering the grave themselves.

"It's something we normally re-confirm when we get here," Basquez said.

He said that it was traditionally common for families to hand cover the graves.

"Now, they'll cover up to the top of the box and then they'll do what they call their final handshake and then after that we will come in and finish covering it up," Basquez said.

He explained that a final handshake is when there are two men at the corner of the grave that stand there with shovels in hand while everyone grabs a handful of dirt and throws it on top of the coffin.

Basquez said that once that is finished, they will say a prayer and the family may stay around longer and for another prayer.

Afterwards, Basquez and his crew finish covering the grave.

"Usually, we are the first ones to get here and sometimes the last ones to leave," he said.

Basquez said he understands that the passing of a loved one is a busy time for families, so they try to work with them to the best of their abilities.

To apply for burial assistance call Social Services at: 918-549-2445.

To request assistance from Tribal Driveways in digging a grave call: 918-732-7651.



(Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist)

TWO FAMILIES UNITE THROUGH THEIR CHILDREN

ADOPTION BRINGS CROSS-STATE FAMILIES TOGETHER

by DARREN DELAUNE

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Think about this, you are at a young age and you are abruptly taken from your parents for reasons you may not understand.

It is not only you, but also your three siblings. You do not understand why you are being taken away from you parents, but it is happening. You are taken somewhere away from the people you know and the things you are comfortable with.

Then, not only you are taken away from your parents, you are separated from your siblings. You are no longer able to see your brothers or sisters because you were placed with one family and your siblings have gone to another.

Sadly, this happens all the time, but not purposely. Sometimes families only have enough room for one or two children, and the group of siblings might be four. Maybe the family would only like one child.

Situations like this happen.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Foster Care and Adoption and the Certification and Placement Program focuses on finding placement for children. They hope and try to keep siblings together, whether they are in foster care or adoptive homes.

About two years ago, a story such as this began. A family of four kids, that eventually turned into five (four boys, one girl), were removed from their parents.

"One of the things that we like to focus on is keeping our children together," Program Manager for the FCAPP Robyn Wind said. "We try to do everything to make that happen."

Unfortunately, the siblings had to be split up and could not be placed together.

Then came the twist.

One family out of Owasso took two of the children to live with them. The other family from Duncan took the other two siblings, and when another sibling was born took him as well.

The family from Owasso spoke about why they wanted to adopt. They said they were told they could not have any children but wanted a family regardless.

While going through the foster care and adoption process they found out they were pregnant.

"It was a surprise," the Owasso family said. "Although we were pregnant, we still wanted to adopt. We wanted a family."

The family from Duncan has a similar story. Throughout their marriage they suffered several miscarriages.

"We realized that maybe this is not our path to get our family," the Duncan family said. "After a year of praying on this, to make sure we could handle, we went through the process of adopting."

Both ended up working with FCACP to proceed and move forward with adoptions.

Before any family becomes an adoptive family, they have to go through a six-month period as a foster home. During this time each family found out that the children they were caring for had siblings.

In situations like this, chances are the children would not have seen their siblings. One reason is the trip from Duncan to Owasso is over a three-hour drive, one-way.

However, both of these families took a negative and turned it into a positive. When these families found out that they had siblings across the state, the parents wanted to do everything possible to keep them in touch, through any situation.

"These families have gone above and beyond to keep these kids together," Wind said. "Regardless of how far they are away from each other, it does not matter to them. What matters is the children and helping them."

Due to privacy issues, the names of the parents are not disclosed.

"When we found out that our children had siblings, we wanted to see if it was possible to somehow reunite them so they could see each other," the Owasso family said. "We did everything we could to get in touch with the other foster family to see about having the children meet."

The family from Duncan echoed that sentiment.

"I asked Robyn (Wind), if the people who have my kids siblings, if they would want to stay in contact," they said. "She checked into it and because of that we have been so blessed."

> *"We don't care about the miles between us. We are two families who have bonded together through the love of our children. Our children, it is what united us as one family."* - **FAMILY FROM DUNCAN**

Both of the families have been committed to being on the same page and wanted to do everything possible to make sure the children were able to see each other.

"We want all of our kids to have memories with each other," the Duncan family said.

The families take turns once a month, making the drive to either Owasso or Duncan, so the children and see each other and play.

The said it is not easy. Both families know of the sacrifices that they have to make, but they understand know it is the right thing to do.

The oldest of the children is now seven, so with the children being of a young age, sometimes the drive can be longer.

"We feel it is something we have to do," the Owasso family said. "We have to make this trip for our families."

Both families said that although they live a great distance apart, the children are very close. They are happy to see each other, and FaceTime each other to let the children talk and visit when they cannot meet up.

Both families said this is the step in the right direction to help the children grow and heal.

"We both have crazy lives, and we are always busy but we know this is priority," family of Owasso said.

The family from Duncan said that in this short time, it has been one long road but they said to be able to share it with another family is what makes it worth it.

"I love every moment of this," the family from Duncan said. "I compare it to a really, cool club."

While the families live outside the MCN jurisdiction, both families try and do everything to keep the children close to their culture.

"We do what we can to get help our kids know more about their culture," family of Owasso said. "We read them stories that are related to their tribe. We want to do more."

The family from Owasso has made their family even bigger. To add on to the child that is biological and the two they adopted, they have since had another baby of their own and are now fostering two more children.

The family from Duncan is enjoying life with their three young ones and they said they could not have been more blessed and happier.

"We don't care about the miles between us," family of Duncan said. "We are two families who have bonded together through the love of our children. Our children it is what united us as one family."

For more information on MCN Foster Care and Adoption, contact: 918-732-7869.

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP)
Healthy Research Participants Needed



The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa, Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*
— *Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications*
— *Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications*
— *Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications*
*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). $200 compensation ($100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk
OK-SNAP

For more information call:
918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565
You may also visit our website at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys
or on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

INTERTRIBAL

Continued from Page 1

ton spoke about the Stand Down event and what it meant to him.

"To me, what this Stand Down is, we wanted to give thanks and show our appreciation and love to our veterans and what they have done for this country," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said there were vendors that offered numerous kinds of services for various veterans' needs.

"Whatever services that our veterans need, we have it here for them at the Stand Down," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said this is the fourth year of the event, and making it in a more centralized location has helped veterans be able to make the event.

"In the previous years, we had it in western Oklahoma and that cannot work for everyone, especially for the people who live in eastern Oklahoma," Hamilton said. "Being how this is in the middle of the state, it gives everyone a better opportunity to get here and access the services that can be offered."

Vendors offered services such as wellness checks and behavioral health services, all the way to giving out boots, gloves and haircuts.

"This is really overwhelming seeing the turnout at this event," Hamilton said. "It has an impact to our veterans and it can show them that we want to help them in anyway we can."

Oklahoma City Veteran Affairs Medical Center Transition Patient Advocate Waco Blakely was at the Stand Down event with information from the VA.

He hopes to help the post-9/11 Native American veterans who need services.

"We know here in Oklahoma that there is a very large Native American population that has served our country," Blakely said. "We want to provide outreach to our newest generation of heroes."

Blakely served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1990-1994 and also served in the Oklahoma Air National Guard up until 2014, when he retired after 24 years of service.

"I would have kept on going if I could," he said.

Although not Native American, Blakely wants to help any tribal members receive services.

He was on the planning committee for the Intertribal Stand Down.

"When I started with the VA in 2005, I worked with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe to get our veterans to participate in Sweats (ceremonial sweat lodges). We were able to get some veterans to join us and we educated them on what the sweat lodge is and what it can do to help them.

"We want them to understand, as a warrior, what the sweat can do for them," Blakely said.

He said starting there peaked his interest into helping other tribal veterans throughout the state.

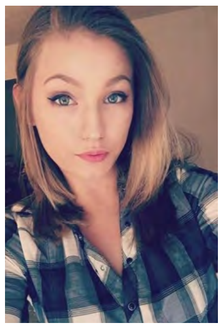
"I have participated in all the Intertribal Stand Down's since 2005 and will continue to do so," Blakely said. "We want to get the new generation of soldiers to know we are here to help."

He recommended Native veterans to contact a VA office.

"We encourage any veterans who need services to call either the Muskogee VA or Oklahoma City VA offices," Blakely said. "We would love to assist them in getting their VA health care started with a primary care doctor and any other needs that they may have."

For more information, contact: Oklahoma City VA at: 405-456-1000, or Muskogee VA at: 918-577-3000.

In Memoriam



Jona Steen Rosson

March 4, 1997 - November 4, 2016

Jona Steen Rosson was born March 4, 1997 in Claremore, Okla. Jona lived in Joplin, Mo. She attended Joplin High School where set met the love of her life, Keegan.

During Jona's senior year she relocated to Texas then came back to Oklahoma. She graduated high school from Central High School in May 2015. Jona worked at Target and at Alorica where she worked in customer service, but her favorite job was being a stay at home mom.

She married her high school sweetheart July 2, 2015. October 2015 they announced they were pregnant. On April 7, 2016 they welcomed Carter Lane Rosson who made their precious family complete.

She talked about her cats all the time, Isis, Athena and Apolo, and didn't mind being called the crazy cat lady. She had aspirations to go further her education and attend veterinary school because of her love for animals. Among her hobbies were: listening to music, making funny videos with her family, spending time with family and friends. She was a devoted wife and mother.

Jona left this world on November 4, 2016 in Joplin, Mo. She is preceded in death by her great-grandma Viola Thomas, grandpa Rudy Thomas, grandma Terry Eddy-Virgina, and foster dad Dexter Stephens.

She is survived by her husband Keegan and daughter Carter, mother Xaviera, father John, foster mom Becky Stephens, sisters Natalie and Harley, paternal grandparents James Hogue and Debra Hogue, maternal grandma Sharon Lee and husband Richard Lee, aunts and uncles: Lucy and James Briggs, Adam Thomas, James Jr. and Jacqueline Hogue, Christina and Auke Plantinga, Brandon and Stacy Hogue, Sarah and Ian Pearson, mother-in-law Laura Bradford and wife Michelle, father-in-law Richard Rosson and wife Jennifer, cousins: Haylee, Bryce and Levi, Madison and Nicholas, Ryan and Aaron, Thad and Megan, Malori, Kyle, Austin, Emma, Lauren, and Kaylee, Brent, Samantha and Steven, Barbara and Hanna, brother-in-laws Josh and Gage Rosson.

Jona was loved by her in-laws, immediate, distant and extended family. She will be dearly missed by all who came into contact with her. Jona was laid to rest at Watashe Family Cemetery in Sapulpa, Okla.

Wake service was held from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, with funeral services held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, both at Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St., Sapulpa, OK. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St., Sapulpa, OK.



Anita Sue Powell

Anita Sue "Susie" or "Battles" Powell, 60, passed away Nov. 8, at her home.

Sue was born on June 22, 1956 in Okmulgee, Okla., to David Logan Powell and Vena Mae Sampson Randall.

She loved growing plants and flowers. Sue enjoyed watching OU football,

Oklahoma City Thunder basketball and she was a Preston Pirate basketball fan.

She was also a Sequoyah Indian basketball and football fan. Sue was a member of the Okmulgee Indian Community Center.

Sue is preceded in death by her parents, and step-dad Willie Randall.

Left to cherish the memory of Sue are her children, Davena Powell of Okmulgee, Jed Kitchkommie of Okmulgee, and Jared Bigbear of Okmulgee; grandchildren, Marcus Kitchkommie, Cambren Powell, Kaden Kitchkomie and Eva Marie Crimson Bigbear; sisters, Pam Palmer and Sharon Whitecloud of Okmulgee, Peggy Powell of Preston; brothers, Rusty Powell of Preston, Rick Powell (Leslie) of Okmulgee, Butch Powell (Carol) of Tulsa, and David Powell, Jr. of Pawnee, Oklahoma; Aunt Priscilla Kahbeah, Uncle Lawrence Kahbeah, and Aunt Rebekah Autaubo all of Okmulgee and a host of nieces and nephews that lovingly referred to her as "Auntie Sue Sue."

A wake service was on Thursday, Nov. 10 at the Newtown Methodist Church.

A service for Sue was held Friday, Nov. 11, at Newtown Methodist Church with Rev. Paul Tecumseh officiating. Interment followed at the Miller Family Cemetery.

Casketbearers were Joey Bass, Robert Topi, Tommy Tecumseh, Thunder Whitecloud, Marley Lowe, Wilson Tecumseh, and James Whitecloud. Honorary casketbearers were Robert Kahbeah, Raymond Lowe, Shawn Moore, Christopher Bowen, "Chink" Whitecloud, and Mike Glass.

Arrangements were entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee.

A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEn

Perhaps you aren't ready yet—to have to say good-bye...

Perhaps you've thought of things you wish you'd said ---well, so have I.

For one thing, I'd have told you—not to worry about me...

I'm with the Lord in Heaven now---you knew that's where I'd be...

I'm sorry that you're feeling sad, for I'm so happy now...

I've asked the Lord to ease the hurt and comfort you somehow.

It's hard at the beginning, but I know you'll make it through...

I hope it helps to know

That I'll be waiting here for you.....

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

SAPULPA, Okla. — A Native American Christmas Market will be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Sapulpa Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar Ave., Sapulpa, OK.

The market will include Native American jewelry, clothing, décor, etc., and a Native food concession.

A Christmas collection of clothes and toys will also be taken for the Standing Rock Reservation children.

For more information, visit Native American Christmas Market 2016 on Facebook, or call Tricia at: 918-998-4549.

THANK YOU

May God bless each of you that came to the Franks/Fixico Reunion. We were honored to have each of you there. When help was needed the most - you are the people that made it happen: Nancy Long and Penny Dyer, Ron and Molly Frank, Patsy Powell and Peggy Factor, Ella Coleman, Sonny Cole, Russell Wind, William (Hvtke) Fixico, Meske A. Wind and Nick (friend), and Dawn Thompson.

A Special Thank You to: Johnny, Mary and daughter, Lucy for singing a beautiful song. To Anna Mekko for prayer in our native language. Also, for the food, gifts & the monetary donations, (money was turned over to the group sponsoring the reunion next year).

To mention a few that were there:

2nd Mekko of MCN- Mr. Louis Hicks (Army Veteran) and wife, Gloria; Honorable Judge of MCN- George Thompson (Marine Veteran) and wife, Nora; Former Seminole Nation 2nd Mekkos: Mrs. Mary Emarthalee, and Mrs. Ella Coleman; and, Mrs. Miriam Beaver; Mrs. Delois Raulston; Dawn Thompson; Ms. Anna Mekko; Mrs. Minnie Gouge, her daughter-Teresa and husband.

Elders: My father-in-law, (WW II Veteran) Rev. Daniel Wind, (Army); Nora Factor family (Pete, Sally, Jimmy and Kogee); Liz Frank family (Molly Mac and Son, with Hayden); Claudia Lena; Chufee and Pat Johnson (with grandson and granddaughter).

Others: Ronnie Cole, (Marine Veteran); Allen Wind, (Army Veteran); Loretta Jumper; Sherry and Son-Daniel) Joe and Beverly Manley with Clarence; Clarissa and Ashley Cole; Alex and Courtney Tainpeah, and (son-Isaiah); Candace Tainpeah; Brian and Jerry Foley and (Conner); the McCosar sisters; Loretta Frank; Pinky Cole; and many more with children, I did not know the names of (please forgive me, I had forgotten the sign-in book).

Last, our very own Anna Cully, she is the one that knows a lot of our kinfolk!

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us" –Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happy Birthday- Russell Wind (Son) November 27th! Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Mvto! Susie Wind

THANK YOU

The family of the late Ruby (Berryhill) Mauk would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone for their kind assistance in the funeral for our beloved Aunt Ruby. To Social Services and Tribal Driveways, you are a credit to our Nation and we are so blessed by you. To the wonderful women of Newtown United Methodist Church, whose love and kindness, warmth and sacrifice are a true testament of your Holy Spirit. To all of you we are deeply grateful. Mvto!

CORRECTION

Editor's note: In the original posted story, the 'Muscogee Nation News' stated that the Mvskoke Nation Youth Services teen pregnancy prevention classes were separated by gender. This is incorrect. Classes are co-ed and separated by age only. The story has been updated to reflect this change. 'MNN' regrets this error.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
PROVIDING ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING.
CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:
• ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING EMERGENCY SHELTER
• CREATING A SAFETY PLAN
• ASSISTANCE WITH FILING PROTECTIVE ORDER
• VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS
• ACCOMPANIMENT TO COURT HEARINGS
• SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMS (SANE)
Referrals for additional services depending on an individual's needs...
AN ADVOCATE IS AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND PROVIDE SUPPORT WITHOUT JUDGMENT.
If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (918) 732-7979.
*Services offered regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation, or sexual orientation.



(Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist)

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council particpated in the Notah Begay III Fit Day by hosting the Mvskoke Mvnettvlke Temvrkv (Mvskoke Youth Games) Nov. 13 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Mvskoke Youth Games is an Olympic style of traditional Mvskoke competitions such as, stickball, running, blow darts, ATLATL distance throwing, tug of war and traditional bow shooting.

SUBMISSIONS

DEAR EDITOR

by Patricia Kaseca
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen
Muskogee, Okla.

Dear Editor,

I volunteer in the Muskogee Public School system. This is my first year assisting educators and students locate resources for the classroom. Since August, I have met some incredibly generous people who have given their finances and professional support to make this academic year a success. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and entrepreneurs:

Aaron Carapella, Tribal Nations Maps, Broken Arrow, BancFirst in Muskogee, Sadler Paper Company, Muskogee, Cedric Sunray, Southwestern Christian University, Bethany, William Holloway, Holloway Printing, Muskogee, Sonya at Corporate to Casual, Muskogee, Lynette Gunn, Jack Montgomery, VA Hospital, Muskogee, Allison Reyes, Miss NEO 2015, Miami, Joyce Deere, Muscogee Tribal Councilwoman, Muskogee, Carly Hotvedt, Creek Nation Housing, Okmulgee and Hanna Farms, Lisa Bear, Muscogee Nation College, Okmulgee, Brian On-the-Hill, Creek Nation Tourism, Okmulgee, Doetta Hicks at Creek Nation Food Sovereignty Initiative, Okmulgee, Mary Beth Timothy, 5 Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee, Carole Brumley, Project Linus, Bartlesville, Dr. Hugh Foley, Rogers State University, Claremore, Rachel Lloyd, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Miami, Lauren Jenkins, Creek Nation Casino, Muskogee, Dr. Todd Rider, Mad Scientist Saturday, MIT, Massachusettes, OERB (Oklahoma Energy Resource Board), Marilu Fretts, Celebrate Urban Birds, Cornell University, New York, Morehouse College, Georgia, Angie R. at Economy Drug-Westside, Muskogee, Rozy Simon, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Jasmine Lang, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Tabitha Greenwood, John Brown University, Rachel Hanusa, Puget Sound University, Washington, Kathyrn Miglazzo, University of Missouri, Brandy Potter, University of Central Missouri, Nataly Barillas, Mid-American Christian University, Aaron Gill, Cameron University, Lawton, Dawn Johnson, Oklahoma University of Health Sciences Center, Reagan Senn, Colorado Christian University, Gordon Stubblefield, Park University, Missouri, Julia Bosley, William Jewell College, Amanda Hauff, Tribal Liaison, Environmental Protection Agency, Angela and the ladies at Muskogee Chamber of Commerce, Hope Mayo, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Massachusettes, National Institute of Drug Abuse, Diabetes Program at Center for Disease Control, Diabetesprogram@ihs.gov, National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, DC, Patrick Guy, GoArmyEd.com, Erin Harris, Avedon Foundation, Letha Huddleston, Oklahoma College Assistance Program, Trey Moore, University of Oklahoma, Lynn Hulan, Pencils.net, Golden Rule Industries, Muskogee, Dana Mims and Kelly Gustason, McDonald's, Muskogee/Okmulgee, Hoffman Printing and Graphic Design, Muskogee, Stompoutbullying.org, Sheila Chapman, Red Cross, Muskogee, Stefani at Whirlpool, and Tony Russell, Newson6, Tulsa.

(MVTO!) Thank You!

TOP HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR SENIORS 65 PLUS

by Highland Park Manor
Non-Citizen
Okmulgee, Okla.

It can be hard buying for us 'oldies' since we've had a lifetime of gifts, however, here are some great ideas.

Blankets or Throws: Our circulation and metabolism tend to slow as we age making many of us cold natured. These will warm the body as well as the soul.

Custom Gift Baskets: Whether you choose toiletries, perfumes, food, chocolates, etc. These will express customized love and personality with the time spent on choices.

Tablets or iPads: This social connection is important for seniors, as we've talked before. This technology provides entertainment, med. management, brain exercise fun and a link to loved ones far away.

Gift Certificates to Grocery Stores and Favorite Restaurants: These allow us to cut food expenses, sometimes motivating us to buy food we normally wouldn't, improving nutrition and gives opportunity for a fun meal out and change of scenery.

Smartphones: Phones are a necessary item for that personal connection and are crucial for safety. On a personal note, they can also be quite brain challenging as any of my friends, family and co-workers can validate when it comes to me using them.

Clothes: Sometimes the older we get, we tend to rely on 'old favorites' in our closet and don't purchase a lot of new clothing which our grandkids are usually the first ones to point out. A new outfit can be a real treat.

Always treasured are photobooks, scrapbooks or family videos. These are tangible pieces of heritage to hold on to. Medic Alert jewelry is always appreciated for its sense of security. Some very simple ideas include gift cards, erasable calendars, nightlights and most any type of candies.

So whatever shopping you do this year, REMEMBER, it truly is the thought that counts, the kindness behind the act. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

PROJECT LINUS

by Patricia Kaseca
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen
Muskogee, Okla.

Carole Brumley, Chapter Coordinator for Project Linus is one of those extraordinary people whose mission is to help the traumatized, hospitalized, and children in need with their own warm, snuggly blanket. Carole and I are both volunteers that advocate for children. We also come from large families and are very familiar with the challenges that families face without adequate resources. Last month, I had an opportunity to work with Carole and Project Linus in Muskogee, where she and her sister Julia Brown, delivered blankets to a local elementary school with about 50 enrolled Native American children.

Project Linus got its name from the Peanut's character, Linus, created by Charles Schultz. Mr. Schultz inspired the organization's name, and in the 1990s, "blanketeers" from various parts of the country became a reality. The child-sized covers are knitted or sewn, and come in an array of colors and textures with the Linus character stitched on each blanket. All fabric and supplies to make the blankets, including store-bought ones, and shipping costs are donated.

Carole coordinates requests for blankets in her region; Kay, Nowata, Osage and Washington Counties. The blankets are in huge demand and there is a great need for communities across Oklahoma to start their own Project Linus Chapters. She believes that a Chapter in Muskogee and other surrounding communities is greatly needed.

Carole Brumley may be contacted at okprojectlinus@yahoo.com for starting up a Chapter.

PUMPKIN DONATIONS

by Patricia Kaseca
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen
Muskogee, Okla.

Last month, just in time for fall break in Muskogee, two elementary schools with at least 100 tribally enrolled Native American students received a pumpkin donation. Approximately 40 volleyball-sized pumpkins in forest green and bright orange, along with lots of pumpkin squash, were picked up by two school volunteers at the Creek Nation Housing Authority. CN Housing staff, Carly Holvedt and Rachael Locust assisted Muscogee citizens Maya Jefferson and Patricia Kaseca load the pumpkins in the truck.

At first, it looked like the pumpkins might not become a reality for the students. It was getting close to the end of October when lots of kids want a pumpkin. Doetta Hicks at Creek Nation Food Sovereignty Initiative provided assistance to Patricia but there was not enough pumpkins in supply at that time. Time was running out and demand for the pumpkins was at an all time high. So what does a tribal citizen do at a time like this? A call was placed to Joyce Deere, Muskogee District Councilwoman for the Muscogee people.

Within days Ms. Deere had located a donation for Maya and Patricia. They received a call from Carly Hotvedt, who explained that Hanna Farms had pumpkins waiting at the Housing Authority. Maya Jefferson, a high school senior, gassed up her truck and picked up Patricia as soon as the call was received. After loading the pumpkins in the backseat and on their way back to Muskogee, both volunteers agreed it was an interesting experience chasing down the pumpkins. It was also a relief that the students would have their pumpkins. Mvto! Tribal Councilwoman Deere, Carly, Rachael, and Doetta.

THE BATTLE OF HORSESHOE BEND

by Kenneth Dunn
Non-Citizen

Horseshoe Bend was the pivotal event for the Creek Indian Red Stick War, and American history east of the Mississippi River. The Creek Nation remained an eastern mega-tribe as seen in Teddy Roosevelt's 1888 title 'The Winning of the West,' which made the claim that Creek tribal population was a low-end 25,000, high-end 30,000, and could field a minimum of 5,000 warriors. This population was in what would be the states of Alabama and Georgia.

The Creek Nation, or the Creek Confederacy, was split between Lower Towns of what would be Georgia, and Upper Towns largely of Central Alabama. By 1800, it remains likely a minimum of one-fifth of the Creek Tribal population had been half-blood: European and Native American. This is an occurrence of a century of ongoing colonial trade: English, French and occasional Spanish, who had unions with Creek women, particularly in the Lower Towns. Often these women belonged to the dominant Creek Wind Clan.

When the War of 1812 began, in the Upper Creek towns typically a majority of full-blooded and traditional Creek had frequent contact with the Shawnee Tribal Mission from Prophet's Town in Ohio and the Indiana Territory, the base of the Tribal Nationalist Shawnee, Tecumseh.

Tecumseh, along with his brother the Shawnee Prophet, led a messianic tribal movement of a dozen tribes nominally supported by the British in Canada. It may well have been the case that the mother of Tecumseh had been a Creek.

When the War of 1812 began, a Creek case for a chapter of the Messianic Tribal Movement began in the North, exploded in the majority of Upper Creek towns and like the Shawnee, these Creeks who began to be known as Red Sticks, favored alliance with the Spanish in Florida and British. The largest contingent of half-blood Creeks in the lower towns or Georgia allied with the Americans. Particularly, two dominant half-blood, half-brothers: William and Roley McIntosh.

The fighting capacity for the Red Stick was concentrated in a dozen Upper Towns and likely numbered 4,000 warriors. Maybe half of the Red Stick had firearms; the majority British and Spanish manufactured trade guns. The Creek War really began in the late summer, early fall of 1813.

White militias from Georgia and Louisiana mustered to go after the Red Sticks, however, the largest militia to muster had been 3,000 to 5,000 'volunteers' from Tennessee nominally under the command of Andrew Jackson, a neophyte general, and two competing Tennessee militias under Gens. Cocke and White. The notion that Tennessee militia was volunteers may not have been correct as the majority had been conscripted.

Between the fall of 1813 and early spring of 1814 the Red Sticks had fought half-a-dozen major engagements against invading white militia. The Red Stick had scattered roughly half their number and had fled south to Spanish Florida; but the second-ranked Red Stick War Chief half-blood Menewa of Okfuskee managed to gather 800 to 900 warriors at an Alabama Creek town known to the Creek as Tohopeka and Horseshoe Bend by the whites.

The Horseshoe Bend village had the Tallapoosa River on three sides and the Creek village at the far end populated by several hundred women, children and elderly, and several hundred African slaves; runaways from white plantations in white border settlements.

The only approach to the Creek position by the several thousand white militia and a thousand regular army under the command of Andrew Jackson, was an eight-foot-high fortification of horizontal pines and cypress logs in a concave pattern allowing the Red Stick a clear field of fire at any approach by the whites.

The Horseshoe Bend Battle began mid-morning of March 27, 1814. By mid-day, 800 Cherokee, allied with whites, half of them mixed-blood, had crossed the river and attacked the Red Stick rear guard, also, the white militia and regular army had broached the Red Stick rampart. Wave after wave of militia began a brutal day-long melee with the Red Stick. By dusk, 600 to 700 Red Stick were dead or wounded, or prisoners. In the chaos of nightfall as many as a few hundred, often wounded, managed to cross the river and flee.

In the aftermath of the Horseshoe Bend defeat, a final wave of several thousand Red Stick fled south into Spanish Florida and tripled Seminole population in the Spanish possession. The Seminole had ties by tribe and clan to the Creeks.

A minimum of 200 whites died at Horseshoe Bend either outright, killed on the battlefield, or expired later of wounds received in the fight. Between 1814 and 1815, Andrew Jackson had intense negotiations with the Creek and finally at gunpoint obtained a land cession of 23 million acres of what would become Georgia and Alabama.

NATIVE HERITAGE CELEBRATION

by Patricia Kaseca
Muscogee (Creek) Citizen
Muskogee, Okla.

Susan Roberts, Indian Education and Native American Student Advocacy (NASA) Counselor, and Choctaw Nation member, plus 41 Native American public school students from a local Muskogee school presented, "Keepers of the Flame," on Nov. 9, to an audience of nearly 300 students, teachers and guests.

Susan worked very diligently with the NASA students in decorating their room for visitors during Heritage Day, assigning each student with a speaking part, contacting and inviting parents to the celebration, purchasing supplies for the event, and assisting them with making a Native craft to wear at the event.

The month-long Native American Heritage Celebration kicked off with the students of various tribes in Native attire, entering the gym Grand Entry style, led by guest speaker Cedric Sunray. Cedric is the Campus Liaison/Indigenous Student Coordinator at Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Okla.

He is from Alabama, and a member of the MOWA (Mobile and Washington Counties) Band of Choctaw Indians. Each student carried a flameless candle symbolizing the passing on of tribal customs and values from one generation to the next generation.

Three other guest speakers also joined the student procession: Ms. Lynette Gunn, Muscogee (Creek) member from Muskogee, Okla. Ms. Gunn is a wound care/foot specialist at Jack C. Montgomery VACM in Muskogee.

Allison Reyes is Osage and Prairie Band Potawatomie from Pawhuska, Okla., and the current Miss NEO 2015-16, at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla. She will graduate in December 2016.

Allison was accompanied by Hannah Tyner, who is Absentee Shawnee and Cherokee. Hannah is a professional mentor to NEO students. Both speakers shared a common theme of knowing one's roots as a Native American and the value of attaining a college degree.

Special guest, Muscogee Tribal Councilwoman Joyce Deere was honored by the NASA students for representing the Muskogee District as well as supporting Native American students in her area. Last month Ms. Deere obtained a pumpkin donation from Hanna Farms for these students.

Two more contributors who were unable to attend were Mrs. Carole Brumley and Aaron Carapella. Mrs. Brumley, is the Chapter Coordinator from Bartlesville, Okla., for the Project Linus, a national nationwide organization that provides blankets to hospitalized children, or children in need. She presented a very generous donation of child-sized blankets to several hundred Muskogee students last month.

Aaron Carapella, Tribal Maps, from Broken Arrow, Okla., is a member of the Cherokee Nation. Aaron donated a set of maps to the NASA students, which depicts the original locations of tribes with their original names.

Eleven NASA students: Mariah B., Kamari C., Billy C., Jacob F., Evelyn H., Eldon H., Latavion J., Kamryn M., Christian Y., Christyle P. and Maryah G. hosted the entire event. Each student introduced a speaker or served as hospitality representatives for guest speakers, including a soundman, who assisted Patricia Kaseca, NASA

Continued on Next Page

NATIVE HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Continued from Page 10

Volunteer in coordinating the music for the celebration. The students did an amazing job introducing the guest speakers, providing a cultural narrative of the theme of "Keepers of the Flame," and briefly highlighting the 1990 Native American Proclamation by former President George H. W. Bush.

Cedric Sunray captured the students' attention by sharing his Choctaw heritage through storytelling. Stories of tribes assisting slaves in the Southeast are common. His story, an adaptation of Tim Tingle and Jeanne Rorex Bridges book, Crossing Bok Chitto and his own community's stories, illustrated the importance of these unions. He also taught students some words and phrases in the Choctaw language.

Lynette Gunn shared some of her experiences as a Wound Care Nurse at the VA Hospital in Muskogee. She also spoke about her heritage and an important Native American attribute called Honor.

She used the example of her parents and what it means to show honor to a person, especially one's elders.

One way that the NASA students chose to show honor to the soldiers this Veteran's Day was to make sixty Thanksgiving cards for Lynette so she can give them to hospitalized veterans this coming holiday.

Susan Roberts was especially proud of her NASA students and appreciative of the volunteer assistance received by Muscogee (Creek) and Cherokee citizen Patricia Kaseca in selecting the theme, music and writing of the children's scripts for the celebration.

At the conclusion of the celebration, Susan presented a gift from the NASA students to the teachers and students. The gift included four books called the "Eagle Eye" series using Native American children as watercolor characters illustrating healthy lifestyles.

After the presentation, Councilwoman Joyce Deere expressed her congratulations to the Native students for presenting an excellent program.







MVSKOKE LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

HVSE/MONTHS

RVFO CUSE - JANUARY
HOTVLE HVSE - FEBRUARY
TASAHCUCE - MARCH
TASAHCE RAKKO - APRIL
KE HVSE - MAY
KVCO HVSE - JUNE
HIYUCE - JULY
HIYO RAKKO - AUGUST
OTOWOSKUCE - SEPTEMBER
OTOWOSKV RAKKO - OCTOBER
EHOLE - NOVEMBER
RVFO RAKKO - DECEMBER

O A R V F O C U S E L W K V C O H S
C F A K O E U K E T A S A H C U C E
H H O K E S T A R H O T V L E H V E
K O T A T H V H I Y O R A K K O U S
U T H R A O V A T H V E O S E O E A
T O O V S K K S K O E O O C E S E O
R W T F A K S K E L C O U C V R C A
V O V O H E A S O E H Y U H S K H Y
F S L C C H C H C E I K O O E A O A
O K E E E A E K O H S C H I Y U C E
R V H A R C C E V O V R V F O R A H
A R V I A C H K W K V W K C A H H C
K A S T K E S O I T A S A H C U C R
K K E S K O T O W O S K V R A K K O
O K K K O O K O V R Y C T E H E S S









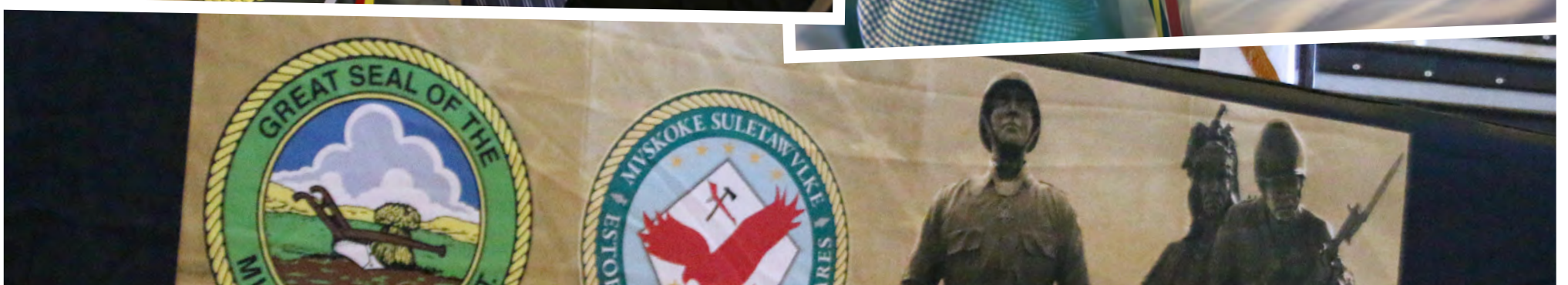












(Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist)

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office hosted the Chat and Chow event Nov. 10 on the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

Muscogee (Creek) veterans from all military branches attended the event for lunch and to speak with MCN Prinipcal Chief James Floyd and Second Chief Louis Hicks.

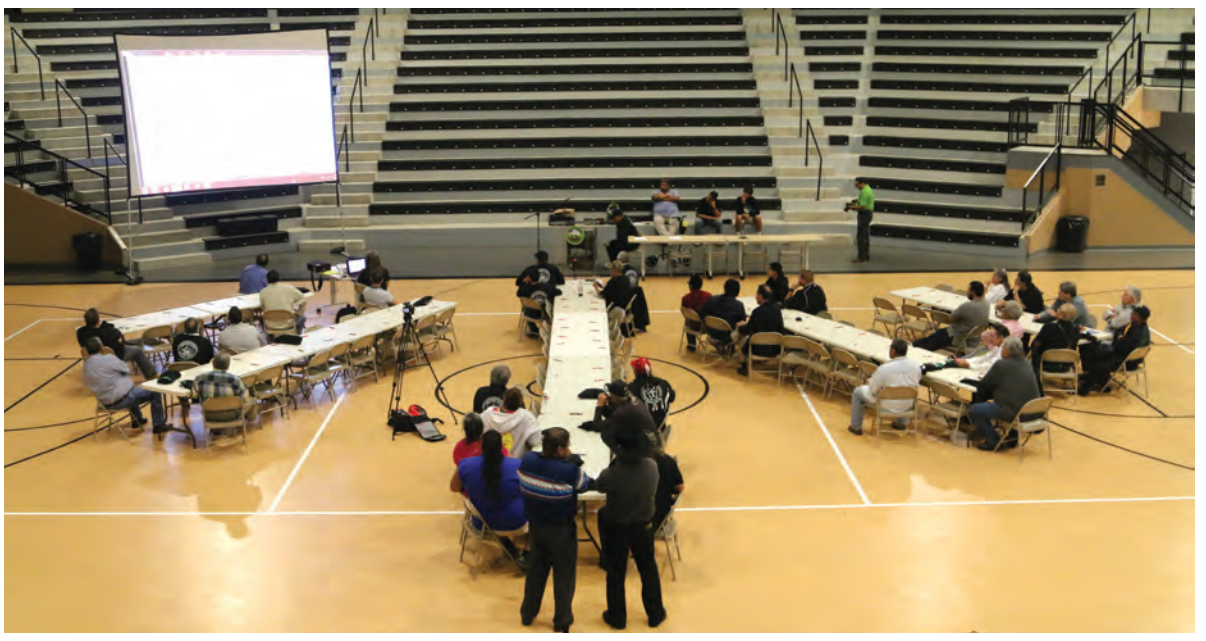
WINNER OF THE OK SPJ, CARTER BRADLEY FIRST AMENDMENT & THE NAJA, ELIAS BOUDINOT FREE PRESS AWARDS



DEC. 15, 2016 | "RVFO RAKKO" BIG WINTER MONTH | VOL. 46, ISSUE 24

THE MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

THE OFFICIAL TRIBAL NEWSPAPER OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION • PRODUCED BY MVSKOKEMEDIA



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation held the first Men's Summit Nov. 17, at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

FIRST SUMMIT FOCUSES ON TRAUMA IN YOUNG MALES

YOUNG, ADULT MEN FOCAL POINT IN PRESENTATIONS

by DARREN DELAUNE

REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The inaugural Muscogee (Creek) Nation Men's Summit was held Nov. 17, at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The event was hosted due to numerous incidents involving young men that dealt with trauma going on throughout the Nation, state and country.

College of Muscogee Nation Dean of Academic Affairs Monte Randall said his attendance was for business and personal reasons. He told the 'Muscogee Nation News' that he works with several students, and at times these issues come up.

"There are times when young men will come up and need someone to talk to or that are dealing with any trauma," Randall said. "We have to prepare ourselves for those situations when they present themselves."

Randall said that holding the summit is a step in the right direction. He still feels that there is a barrier between the young men and the services that are offered to them.

"There has been a lot of work done on these issues. In this society, we were taught that men do not cry or show emotions and have to 'man up.' It is going to take a lot of work because it is engrained in a lot of men today.

"It is getting a lot of attention now but still needs a lot more work," he said.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd attended and said he believed it was urgent to have an event such as this one.

"We believe this event had to happen out of necessity," Floyd said. "There have been some tragic events dealing with single men and it has raised a lot of concerns among our elders, church and (ceremonial) grounds leaders."

He was happy with the turnout and hopes that anybody who needs help dealing with trauma in their lives knows that the Nation has services that can be offered to them.

"We need to get together to tell our young men that they are not alone, and don't feel left out," Floyd said.

Floyd said some of the young men who needed to be at the event were probably not there, but there are people that can relay messages to them and people that young men can trust.

"Passing that information to them can go a long ways in helping them out," he said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dewayne Tiger and program director of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Diabetes Program made the trip to the Men's Summit. Tiger said he felt like it was something that he needed to attend to see how he can help

SUMMIT – 3



A petition to remove Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd from office failed to receive the number of required signatures by deadline. (Shutterstock Image)

REMOVAL PETITION FAILS TO COLLECT REQUIRED SIGNATURE AMOUNT

CITIZEN SAYS PETITION WILL NOT BE TURNED IN

by JESSICA MCBRIDE

MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) citizen who filed a removal petition Oct. 7 against Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd said she would not turn the petition in due to lack of signatures.

Brenda Golden filed the petition to remove Floyd from office alleging treason, incompetence and abuse of power.

"I thought there were a lot of people saying they wanted to impeach the chief, and I had the skill and I had the time to draft a petition so I did," Golden said.

Golden had until 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 to turn in the petition with 3,431 signatures of registered MCN voters to the National Council secretary to be considered.

The number of signatures was determined by the MCN Election Board, based upon 20 percent of the total registered voters. The petition states the total number as of the petition date is 17,157.

JUDGE SUSPENDS DOL'S OVERTIME RULE

MCN PREPARED TO ADDRESS RULE WITH 'COMP' TIME

by JESSICA MCBRIDE

MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to a Native American Finance Officers Association press release, a federal judge blocked the U.S. Department of Labor's overtime rule from going into effect Dec. 1.

'The judge granted the injunction as it "preserves the status quo while the court determines the department's authority to make the final rule as well as the final rule's validity." In this injunction, the court ruled regulation exceeded the authority granted to the DOL by Congress,' the statement said.

The releases stated that the decision is temporary, and it was likely DOL would appeal the

JUDGE – 3



The College of the Muscogee Nation announced Nov. 16 that they had received initial accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. (MNN file photo)

CMN RECEIVES INITIAL ACCREDITATION

BIBLE CALLS NEWS A "HISTORIC MOMENT"

by LIZ GRAY

MVSKOKE MEDIA CONTRIBUTOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation has made a major step in accreditation.

The Higher Learning Commission has awarded the college with initial accreditation during its Nov. 3 meeting. CMN is now qualified to offer associate's degrees and certificates consistent with its mission.

It has been an educational journey for the tribal college that was first established in 2004. The college had humble beginnings in a small building at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and has since then developed into the institution it is today.

CMN has followed a series of steps to get to this point. According to a letter from the college, in 2008 they completed an eligibility study, a successful interview to establish accreditation eligibility in 2009 and a preliminary information document to prepare for candidacy in 2011.

Once eligible for candidacy, the college completed a self-study, site visit and successful interview by the HLC in order to obtain candidacy in 2012.

An assurance argument and accreditation site visit, as well as the Institutional Actions Council interview was completed in 2016, which resulted in awarding the college initial accreditation by HLC.

Initial accreditation means that the college is on a 10-year cycle. This means the college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation in the first cycle of its accreditation and a reaffirmation of accreditation occurs in year four of the 10-year cycle.

When the reaffirmation is granted in year four, the college can move to year five and complete the ten-year cycle. The first review is set for school year 2020-21.

"It's a historical moment for our college and our Mvskoke people and Nation," said CMN President of Robert Bible.

By receiving accreditation, a student that attends CMN will

COLLEGE – 3



A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 19 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla. (Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator)

TERO REPEAL BILL POSTPONED INDEFINITELY DURING COUNCIL SESSION

APPROPRIATION APPROVED TO FUND WETUMKA CLINIC FIVE DAYS A WEEK

by JESSICA MCBRIDE
MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 19 at the Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Council addressed the following legislation, the interpretation of which is attributed to language in the bills:

TR 16-176 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs oil and gas mining on tribal property located in Hughes County. Rep. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that the Nation received a proposed oil and gas lease from Calyx ENERGY III on 33.9 acres of land that MCN owns in Hughes County, and the Council must approve the lease per MCN Constitution.

TR 16-177 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a DOI BIA oil and gas mining lease on tribal property located in Hughes County. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that the Nation received a proposed oil and gas lease from Calyx ENERGY III on 137.75 acres of land that MCN owns in Hughes County, and the Council must approve the lease per MCN Constitution.

TR 16-178 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for ad valorem exemption with the Oklahoma County Assessor. Del Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that it is in the best interest of the Nation to apply for an ad valorem exemption for taxes on property owned by the Nation in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City Creek Indian Community utilizes the property.

According to www.investopedia.com, ad valorem tax is, 'based on the assessed value of an item such as real estate or personal property.'

TR 16-179 Authorizing the adoption of the updated hazard mitigation plan. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The MCN Risk/Emergency Management Department has updated the hazard mitigation plan, which addresses natural hazards that are a threat to citizens within the Nation's jurisdiction.

The plan would allow the Nation to collaborate with tribal, local, state and federal governments, which requires the Council's approval.

TR 16-180 Confirming the nomination of Shoneen Alexander-Ross to serve as the MCN Secretary of Health. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which failed 7-8, with Reps. David Hill, Robert Hufft, James Jennings, Mark Randolph, Rufus Scott, Thomas Yahola, Mitch Jack and Barnett voting against it.

MCN Principal Chief James Floyd nominated Alexander-Ross to fill the position, which would end concurrently with his term as chief.

Barnett spoke during the meeting about the vote.

"A couple of my peers had asked me to postpone this, but after consulting with Chief, he would like a vote today," she said.

In an interview with the 'Muscogee Nation News,' Barnett explained why she voted against the nomination.

"I do think this is the first phase of some needed changes that the Council has been talking about with the administration since the new administration got in there... With a health care system our size, we need someone to come in who has experience, who can really take us to the next phase," she said.

TR 16-181 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a master services agreement with ESO Solutions Inc. on behalf of MCN Department of Health Emergency Medical Services. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

According to their website, ESO Solutions provides health record, billing and analytic systems for EMS personnel.

MCNDH wishes to utilize this system, which requires Council approval due to a waiver of sovereign immunity in the contract.

TR 16-182 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a University of Arizona College of Nursing affiliation agreement. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

MCNDH would like to utilize University of Arizona nursing students for the nurse practitioner program and needs Council approval for the agreement.

TR 16-183 Authorizing the principal chief to execute Paycom agreements included in the human resource package on behalf of the College of the Muscogee Nation. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

CMN wishes to use Paycom for payroll processing services, and needs Council approval for the agreement.

TR 16-184 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an affiliation agreement between MCNDH and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

MCNDH would like to have OU pharmacy students train at MCN health facilities and needs Council approval for the agreement.

TR 16-185 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The Nation is interested in purchasing property near Hanna for wildlife preservation and agriculture. The legislation also allows the principal chief to apply to place the property into trust status after it is purchased.

TR 16-186 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a detention services agreement with the Sac and Fox Nation. Rep. Randall Hicks sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

MCN Children and Family Services is in need of a detention services facility for tribal juveniles and would like to utilize a facility owned by SFN.

A substitute bill was passed on the floor during the Council meeting. According to the document, revisions include a waiver of sovereign immunity, subjecting the Nation to SFN laws and courts.

TR 16-187 Confirming the nomination of Jeffrey McCoy to serve on the Gaming Operations Authority Board. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

McCoy is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and is nominated by Floyd to serve on GOAB. His term would begin when he receives his gaming license and end three years after that date.

TR 16-188 Approving beer sales at South Yale Smoke House. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

2015 Smokehouse management would like to sell beer at the South Yale Smoke House and needs Council authorization.

TR 16-189 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property in Checotah, for the Nation's gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

GOAB wants to purchase property with its own funds at 822 N. Broadway in Checotah for $50,000 to utilize for gaming operations. The current MCN casino in Checotah is located at 830 N. Broadway.

TR 16-190 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a real estate contract and related documents for the purchase of property located in Checotah for the Nation's gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

GOAB wants to purchase property with its own funds at 824 N. Broadway in Checotah for $38,000 to utilize for gaming operations.

NCA 16-123 Repealing MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 9 titled, 'The Tribal Employment Rights Office Act' and reallocating funds within the MCN Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The legislation states that the Council and principal chief have determined that TERO has not served the best interests of the Nation and its citizens.

To view a breakdown and timeline of the legislation, visit: www.mvskokemedia.com/tero-replacement-bill-postponed-indefinitely-during-committee-meeting/.

The legislation was postponed previously for two months at the Sept. 24 regular session.

Barnett spoke during the most recent session regarding the legislation.

"It's my understanding that the administration will have a bill coming forward next month in order to make the necessary changes to that department, and this bill is no longer necessary," she said.

NCA 16-151 Authorizing a $35,000 appropriation to the Eufaula Indian Community and authorizing application for a state limited liability company in order to start up and economic development venture of the community. Rep. Adam Jones and Proctor sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The funds would be used by the community for start up costs for home décor product sales, and to apply for licensing as a state limited liability company in order to conduct business on non-tribal land.

NCA 16-178 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Haskell Public Schools. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The school is requesting financial assistance to host their second annual J.T. Dixon Memorial Basketball Tournament.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

A substitute bill was passed on the floor during the Council meeting, allowing for the use of the MCN seal for tournament trophies, t-shirts and promotional items.

NCA 16-179 Authorizing a $5,000 donation to the Holdenville Fire Department. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The department is requesting funds on behalf of 12 Hughes County fire departments to purchase a rescue boat. The departments have raised $17,233 to go towards the purchase.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-180 Authorizing the expenditure of $7,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2016 Native American Library Services Basic with Education/Assessment option grant for the CMN library. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

Authorization is needed from the Council for CMN to expend the grant funds.

NCA 16-181 Authorizing a $390,765 supplemental appropriation to the MCN Mvskoke Language Program fiscal year 2017 budget. Deere sponsored the amendment, which failed 6-9 with Reps. Del Beaver, Jack, Jones, Randolph, Scott, Yahola, Proctor, Hicks and Barnett voting against it.

The funds would be used for the program to hire instructors, increase the number of public schools served by the program and fund travel expenses and supplies.

Randolph explained during the meeting why he voted against the measure.

"I'd like to say that I'm for the revitalization of our language, but as we discussed earlier this morning, there's no real concrete curriculum or strategy," he said. "And I'll be for it in the future, but I'd like to see what our priorities are."

Hicks echoed his sentiments, and stated he wanted to see a plan to increase the number of Mvskoke speakers before he could support the appropriation.

NCA 16-183 Authorizing a $25,000 appropriation for membership fees of the National Indian Education Association. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-5 with Del Beaver, Hicks, Hufft, Jones and Proctor voting against it.

The legislation states that the organization was established in 1970 for advocating, planning and promoting the education needs of Native Americans, focusing on tribal and community control of education and expanding educational opportunities in Native languages and cultural education.

The funds pay for a platinum membership with the organiza-

Continued on Next Page

THE MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call: 918-732-7720 or e-mail: wmurphy@mvskokemedia.com.

tion.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-184 Authorizing a $662,245 supplemental appropriation for the MCNDH Wetumka Indian Health Center FY 2017 budget. Scott, Randolph and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, Del Beaver, Hill, Hufft and Jennings voting against it.

The appropriation is needed for the clinic to be open five days a week.

The hours of the clinic were decreased during the MCNDH reorganization process.

Scott asked representatives during the session to support the measure, stating health was a priority for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"This was a bad decision, it was the wrong decision in my opinion because it had affected a lot of citizens that live in the south, most of all elders," he said.

Speaker Lucian Tiger said the facility had been open since April 2011.

Hufft asked Acting Secretary of Health Rhonda Beaver if only having the clinic open two days a week has affected client services.

"They still have the option to schedule appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also have the Okemah clinic that's open, and then I've been in discussion with the Holdenville community and they utilize the one in Wewoka," Rhonda Beaver said.

Hufft said during the meeting he was asked by the Tulsa community to vote against the measure.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-185 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Gypsy Public School. Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The school is requesting funds to purchase athletic equipment. GPS is located within the MCN jurisdiction.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-186 Authorizing a $100,000 special appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) traditional churches for heating expenses. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The monies will be used to help fund propane, natural gas or electric costs for Muscogee (Creek) traditional churches and sets eligibility guidelines.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-187 Authorizing a $2,000 donation to Dewar Public Schools. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

DPS is requesting the funds to purchase two sets of 24 baseball uniforms.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Interest on the Permanent Fund account.

NCA 16-188 Appropriating $445,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in McIntosh County. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

TR 16-185 addressed earlier in the session authorized the principal chief to execute a contract to purchase around 400 acres of land located in McIntosh County.

A substitute bill was passed on the floor during the Council meeting, revising the price of the property from $440,000 to $425,000.

The legislation also appropriates $20,000 to cover the cost associated with the purchase, such as title opinions, surveys and environmental studies.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Economic Development and Land Acquisition account.

NCA 16-189 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Natural Resource Conservation District for FY 2014, 2015 and 2016. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NRCD wishes to reallocate excess funds for other expenses such as daily functions and matching federal grant funds that have been awarded.

NCA 16-190 Authorizing the expenditure of $58,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service for the NRCD. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

NRCD will use the grant funds for conservation planning, a farm bill program and to hire a conservationist. The program needs Council authorization to expend the funds.

NCA 16-192 Amending MCNCA Title 16, Section 1-102 titled, 'The Organization for the Executive Office of the Principal Chief' to organize various agricultural and natural resource programs throughout the MCN Department of Interior Affairs. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Jones voting against it.

The legislation amends the organizational chart and organizes agricultural and natural resource programs into a single division with DIA.

The legislation states this will allow for better administration and oversight of the programs.

NCA 16-193 Authorizing the expenditure of $3,500 from the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc. to the Mvskoke Loan Fund for the youth spending frenzy project. Hicks sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The project will award 20 Muscogee (Creek) students with financial training and $100 to start an emergency savings account. Eligible students will be between the ages of 12-15.

NCA 16-194 Authorizing a $402,310 special appropriation to the Cromwell Indian Community. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-3 with Pete Beaver, Jennings and Jones voting against it.

The community is undergoing renovation to be American Disability Act compliant. NCA 15-144 appropriated $519,664 to renovate the building.

The first phase of the project came out to be $388,242, leaving $131,422 to be used for phase two. The legislation estimates phase two of the project will cost around $533,732.

The community is requesting $402,310 in additional funds to complete phase two.

The funding source for the appropriation is the Capital Improvement account.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled for Dec. 17.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on 'MNN:' staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

with all that is going on.

"I wanted to see what needed to be accomplished to help our younger generation to be able to deal with anything that has been troubling them," he said.

Tiger feels that there is too much separation between the young and older generations and feels that the Men's Summit can be one of the bridges to cover that gap.

"I feel what our younger generation is lacking is proper adult role models," Tiger said. "I think a lot of our youth are getting lost in social media and losing their true identity of who they are. I also think more adult men need to step up and be a more positive role model towards our kids."

Floyd said after this event, he is hoping more events similar to this one can happen in the future.

"Every life is valuable," Floyd said. "Every person means something to somebody."

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1

decision.

U.S. President Barack Obama announced the change in overtime regulations May 18, changing the exempt salary level from $23,660 to $47,476, and requires overtime pay of time-and-a-half for employees earning less than $47,476.

Automatic updates will occur every three years beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

Mvskoke Media was invited to a training session Nov. 16 for Muscogee (Creek) Nation managers and directors to provide an update to citizens regarding the overtime regulation.

During the session, MCN human resource representatives suggested managers and directors utilize compensatory time, also referred to as comp time.

According to the MCN Human Resource Management Services Policies and Procedures Manual dated Aug. 7, 2014, 'All employees who are non-exempt based on the Fair Labor Standards Act shall be given Compensatory time at a rate of one and one half hours for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours per week.'

It also states that employees classified as exempt are not eligible for compensatory time. The section states that the Fair Labor Standards Act defines exempt employees as, 'any employee employed in a bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity.'

It was unclear during the session how the regulation would affect MCN Department of Health or tribal-owned businesses such as Onefire Holding Company and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

be able to receive financial aid, quality education and the ability to transfer to a four-year institution.

Though it may seem like the long road has ended, Bible suggested accreditation is a continuous venture.

"It doesn't end here," said Bible.

CMN will persist to improve procedures, assessment, faculty qualifications and financial support.

The main focus of the college has been to provide education for students interested in the tribal sector and also provide a foundation to continue education towards a bachelor's degree.

Dr. James King, Regents Director for Institutional Effectiveness, attributes "the deep roots for education" to the Mvskoke ancestors that created the ability of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to build educational facilities.

The support for growth has seen three tribal administrations and with the focus of CMN's education being tribal, they hope to set forth a future generation of tribal leaders.

To learn more about CMN, visit: www.mvsktc.org.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Recycling Center crew Nov. 15 on National Recycle Day. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

MCN HOSTS RECYCLING EVENT

CENTER MAKES EFFORT TO INVOLVE CHILDREN

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Recycling Center hosted a weeklong recycling event Nov. 14-18.

MCNRC collected items such as electronics, paper, cardboard, bottles and aluminum cans.

Items such as refrigerators, small appliances, tires and car batteries were not accepted.

"We've been doing this for about four years. We always do something on National Recycle Day which is November the 15th . . . but now we've stretched it to the entire week," Environmental Services Specialist James Williams said.

He said on National Recycle Day they had Headstart children break boxes down as a hands-on activity.

"If we can get the little kids recycling, that's our whole goal because some of the older adults like myself, if you don't recycle you're probably not going to start," Williams said.

He said Natives are stewards of the land.

"As Natives, I think we need to be the leaders and doing right with the natural resources and not pollute as much as we can, and reduce and reuse," Williams said.

He estimated that they would receive 20 tons of electronics through this event.

"The electronics we take to a place in Tulsa that actually takes it apart and they try to recycle as much as the metal and the copper out of them as they can and dispose of it correctly instead of just throwing them to a landfill," Williams said.

He said they donate their paper to Show Ink in Sapulpa because it is a group that works with challenged individuals.

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GREAT SEAL OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon speaks at the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day event Nov. 19 hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee, Okla. (Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator)

SURVIVORS SHARE STORIES OF LOSS, GRIEF AND HOPE

MCN BHS HOSTS SUICIDE SURVIVORS EVENT

by JESSICA MCBRIDE
MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services held an event Nov. 19 to recognize International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.

BHS Program Coordinator Leslie Crow said this was the second time they have hosted this event.

"It's just a really important time for us to reach out to those who have lost loved ones to suicide and provide resources to them and support, and let them know that they're not alone," she said.

Participants circled around and shared their stories of loss, grief and healing to help each other find comfort.

According to the American Association of Suicidology, it is estimated that for every suicide, there are at least six survivors, which some believe is a low estimate.

The organization states that there are over 41,100 suicides annually in the United States, which brings the number of estimated suicide survivors to 246,600 every year.

Crow said it is important for survivors to know that they are not alone and they can seek support through BHS.

"Our Nation has been impacted greatly by suicide and depression, and substance abuse issues that go along with all of these things... We want to be able to support them on an ongoing basis so we're actually asking them for their feedback today in that we want to know what else we can do to help them," she said.

According to AAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 459 American Indian or Alaska Natives died by suicide in 2011.

In 2014, Oklahoma ranked number 11 for suicide rate with a total of 736 deaths by suicide, according to AAS.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon shared his story of how suicide has impacted his life during the support group session.

"I lost my son Sept. 23, 2015... I try to be an advocate to not to have this happen to other parents, losing a child. No parent should have to bury their own children," he said.

Coon's son, Keith served in the U.S. Army for 10 years during the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

Coon said his son suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

According to the Defense Casualty Analysis System, around 6,911 U.S. military active duty personnel died by suicide between 1980-2010.

"Today's society, a lot of our veterans are coming back and they're not getting taken care of like they should be," Coon said.

He said he is now an advocate for Mission 22, a group that raises awareness about veteran suicide.

Coon said it helps him to share his experience with others.

"If I can touch somebody, that maybe it won't happen to another family," he said.

Crow advocated for those who are experiencing suicidal thoughts or those who have lost loved ones to suicide to reach out for help from BHS or other services.

"There's always hope, and so we want to encourage people to get more involved, reach out to others, especially around the holidays. This is a really difficult time when people are experiencing grief and loss," she said.

Crow said BHS will start offering support groups throughout the jurisdiction.

For information about assistance for suicide survivors, visit: www.allianceofhope.org, or: https://afsp.org/find-support/ive-lost-someone/.

If you or someone you know has suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Hotline at: 1-800-273-TALK (8255). You can also text 'Creek,' to the Crisis Text Line at: 741-741.

For more information about future support groups or MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services, call: 918-758-1910.



The 'Return from Exile' sign at the AHHA Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, Okla. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

TRAVELING EXHIBITION 'RETURN FROM EXILE' LEAVES TULSA

ADDITIONAL VENUES ADDED EXTENDING ART TOUR

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

TULSA, Okla. — A panel held Nov. 19 at AHHA Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa discussed an exhibition featuring over 30 contemporary southeastern Native artists.

The Native American art exhibition, 'Return from Exile' began its two-year tour in Athens, Ga., last year.

"The idea of place was important to us to take it back to Georgia and to the Southeast was important," Curator Tony Tiger said.

The exhibit's last day in Tulsa was Nov. 20. The exhibit first came to Tulsa Sept. 26.

The opening reception was Oct. 7 at Tulsa's First Friday Art Crawl.

The exhibit features themes of removal, return and resilience of the Five Civilized Tribes from the southeastern U.S.

Curators Bobby Martin and Tiger collaborated to put the exhibit together.

Tiger was born in Los Angeles.

"I grew up watching old westerns and movies about Indians and popular culture. And so my idea was kind of skewed. But when I came back to Oklahoma, I began to realize that this culture was real. It was still alive and it was still vibrant," he said.

Tiger moved back to Oklahoma in the 1970s.

"We are going back and looking and figuring out who these people were and how they fit into our own existence," he said.

The idea for the exhibit stemmed from Tiger and Martin's Native art.

Tiger and Martin have previous experience in two-man exhibitions.

Tiger said he eventually saw this as an opportunity to not only showcase their art but also other southeastern artists as well.

Tiger said he thought of the exhibitions title, 'Return from Exile.'

"I think a lot of museums have artifacts of a time period before when we were removed. But there was no representation there since that removal or very little," he said.

Tiger said it was important to share the art that is happening now.

"Our cultures are still strong and vital and resilient," he said.

Tiger said some of the art from 'Return from Exile' had been pre-created.

"So we did give the opportunity for artists to create something new . . . I'd say about 75 percent of the pieces are created specifically for the exhibition," he said.

Tiger said they hand-picked the artists for the exhibit.

Martin said the exhibit shows artist diversity.

"Part of our goal with this 'Return from Exile' Exhibition was showing that . . . Native artists can use whatever medium they want, whatever direction and techniques," Martin said.

Tiger said the exhibition was needed in order to speak about contemporary southeastern artwork.

Martin said their two main goals were to choose venues based on where they were physically, and venues non-specific to Native art.

"The specific thing we were trying to do was first of all get the show back to the Southeast which we consider our original tribal homelands," he said.

Martin said some of the venues they chose did not specialize in Native art.

"People could encounter this art they've never seen before," he said.

The traveling exhibition originally had five venues for a two-year tour and an additional four venues were added.

They have a contract with the artists that will end when the exhibition tour is completed.

"But we still have interest in art in venues around the nation and possibly across the big blue. We are discussing that and we're looking at possibilities in financing more of that," Tiger said.

The next stop for the exhibition tour is at the Seminole Nation Museum January 2017 in Wewoka.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management shares tips for winter weather. (MNN File Photo)

MCN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SHARES WINTER TIPS

WINTER WEATHER DRAWING NEAR

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — As winter approaches, it is important to be prepared for severe winter weather.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols said watching the weather is very crucial during the winter.

He said several weeks ago, weather forecasters discussed a winter storm affected the MCN jurisdiction.

"We've been really lucky the last several years because we haven't had too much of a winter," Nichols said.

His main tip for citizens is to be prepared and have a plan.

Nichols said it is important to have enough food and water stocked.

"If you travel, make sure that you've got water and blankets and things in your car that in case you slide off the road, that you are able to stay," he said.

Nichols said he often sees people wait until after the winter storm hits to start preparing.

"They wait til it happens and then everyone runs to Wal-Mart and grabs bread and milk," he said.

Nichols said when the weather does get bad they use the National Weather Service and other resources to monitor the weather.

He said Emergency Management and the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department monitor road conditions.

"Lighthorse is out on the roads so they give me a great weather report," Nichols said.

He said since they cover a large number of counties, they check with local officials to find out their road conditions.

Once Nichols relays the weather information to the tribal administrator or the chief, they make the decision to cancel work for tribal employees.

Nichols anticipates an unpleasant winter.

"I don't think it's going to be as bad as we've ever seen, but we're going have a few storms that will impact us. I don't think it will be long lived, but Mother Nature has tricked me before," he said.

Nichols provided the 'Muscogee Nation News' with a document listing tips on how to prepare for severe winter weather. There are four things to keep in mind when preparing for severe winter weather.

• Discuss and make a plan with your family on what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.

• Make a kit that consists of blankets, a radio, extra clothes, non-perishable foods, water and flashlights.

• Stay informed through local weather channels and NWS.

• Be cautious with alternative heat sources.



(Tate Delana/Graphic Designer)

VAWA HAS YET TO BE EXERCISED AT MCN

NEXT VAWA REAUTHORIZATION ON THE HORIZON

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has yet to exercise the 2013 federal Violence Against Women Act reauthorization after MCN National Council approval to implement it March 17.

Shelly Harrison, prosecutor at the MCN Attorney General's Office said since the implementation of the act they have not had a case involving VAWA.

VAWA enables tribes to claim jurisdiction over non-Natives committing crimes of domestic violence, dating violence and violation of protective orders on tribal properties.

Before the 2013 reauthorization, only the federal government had jurisdiction over cases of domestic violence against Native women by non-Natives.

U.S. President Barack Obama signed the VAWA reauthorization March 7, 2013.

However, the reauthorization did not go into effect until March 7, 2015, two years after the signing of the bill.

Harrison said tribes had the opportunity to implement VAWA before this date, through a pilot project program.

She said prior to VAWA being enacted, they observed what the act would do for the tribe.

"We looked at over the last five years, how many cases we had to refer out because of that and there were quite a few cases that we had to refer to either the feds or to state court because we didn't have jurisdiction," Harrison said.

The court process would be handled like other court cases.

"Non-Natives aren't going to be treated any different than our Natives would," she said.

Harrison said the only difference would be that non-Natives have the right to a non-Native jury pool.

According to NCA 16-038 under Appendix 1, Rules and Procedures of the MCN Tribal Courts Rule 13, the selection of non-Native jurors will consist of MCN non-Native employees.

She said non-Natives cannot be systematically excluded from the jury pool.

"It is a step for us to assert our sovereignty as tribal Nation, as sovereign Nations to ensure protection and safety for our people on our lands," MCN Family Violence Prevention Program Director Shawn Partridge said.

She said the reauthorization restored just a scope of what the government has taken away from tribes.

According to a previous 'Muscogee Nation News' story, the 2013 VAWA reauthorization under Title IX, Safety for Indian Women has only partially restored jurisdiction over non-Natives committing crimes of domestic violence towards Natives on tribal lands.

These rights were revoked in the 1978 Supreme Court case Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe.

"Sarah Deer, who is one of our tribal citizens, attorney and advocate . . . she had commented before that Congress in passing the Violence Against Women Act they didn't give us anything. They just restored what they took away," Partridge said.

Partridge said the 2013 VAWA reauthorization does not include crimes of sexual violence.

"The work now for the next reauthorization in 2018 is already happening," she said.

Partridge said sexual violence is one of the things being considered in the 2018 VAWA reauthorization.

She said the National Congress of American Indians, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and Tribal Law and Policy Institute are working on policy and educating people to prepare for the next reauthorization.

> *"It is a step for us to assert our sovereignty as tribal Nation, as sovereign Nations to ensure protection and safety for our people on our lands."*
>
> **- MCN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM DIRECTOR SHAWN PARTRIDGE**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program received a grant to research the rates of incarcerated women in Oklahoma. (RiP logo)

RIP BEGINS RESEARCH ON INCARCERATION RATES

OKLAHOMA RANKED HIGHEST OF INCARCERATION OF WOMEN IN US

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program was recently awarded a grant that focuses on evidence-based strategies for re-entry from the criminal justice system.

RiP has serviced Muscogee (Creek) citizens for a little over 11 years.

RiP Manager Tony Fish said that there are ways to improve their services for the tribe.

"We feel we have the best model to follow that is available when it comes to reintegration," Fish said. "We know with the model we have, like everyone else, there is room for improvement."

Fish saw this grant and wanted to use it as a target for a certain population.

"We applied for this grant because Oklahoma incarcerates more woman than any other state in the nation per capita," Fish said. "Another thing we found out is the United States incarcerates its citizens more than any other country in the world."

Fish feels that there needs to be research completed on why Oklahoma has the highest number of incarcerated women.

So the idea of this grant will be to collect data to address the situation.

"We need to find out why women in the state of Oklahoma are being incarcerated in such high numbers," Fish said.

Through research, RiP hopes services will improve with the data that they collect.

Fish said there is a partnership RiP has with Oklahoma State University, which he said has a very good research group.

"They have the instruments in place to get ready to go and do the surveys," Fish said.

Other partners included in the research are the U.S. Department of Justice and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

"We will have to have access to the prisons," Fish said. "Well, not only the prisons but also county jails. We are going to be doing a lot to collect this data."

All of these departments will be looking at offenders who are Native American and ones who are Muscogee (Creek).

There will also be data collected on recidivism rates and factors that follow.

"We know there are some factors that are prevalent," Fish said. "All these issues will be sought out."

RiP was awarded over $997,000 and the grant will be in place for three years.



Seasonal Affective Disorder can affect individuals during the winter months. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

CHANGE IN SEASONS COULD LEAD TO CHANGE IN MOOD

SEASONAL DEPRESSION HAS A NAME

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — With the changing of the seasons from summer to fall and then to winter, some people start to feel sluggish and think their energy is less.

Some people call it the yearly feeling, being down or a seasonal funk.

Before you think it is the 'winter blues,' it might be seasonal affective disorder.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, seasonal affective disorder is a condition that is related to a change in seasons. It can begin and end about the same time every year.

Project director and counselor for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Mike Burnside said this feeling of depression usually begins towards the end of the calendar year.

"It happens when it stays darker longer," Burnside said. "People will notice a change in their energy and mood."

A majority of the time SAD is attributed to the winter months, while there are some cases where it has happened in the spring and summer months.

"Primarily, it is in the winter months," Burnside said. "There has been people who have carried this depression to the spring months also even though that is when this disorder usually ends."

Although the causes of SAD are unclear, there are factors that go into this disorder. One of those factors is your biological clock or circadian rhythm.

"With the sun not being out as much during the day, and night comes earlier, that decrease in the sun can disrupt your body's internal clock," Burnside said.

Burnside said that drops in serotonin and melatonin levels due to the lengthen time of night are other components to this condition.

Symptoms to look for with SAD:

• Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day

• Feeling hopeless or worthless

• Having low energy

• Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed

• Having problems with sleeping

• Feeling sluggish or agitated

There are steps to help keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year and especially during the winter months.

Burnside said to increase the lighting. He also said some people do not realize how much a decrease in lighting can affect them.

"Spectrum lighting can be a big help for anyone who is affected by seasonal affective disorder," Burnside said. "It can be purchased inexpensively at any general or hardware store."

In recent years spectrum lighting has been used in treatment of SAD.

Burnside said if there is someone has these symptoms, they will need to set an appointment with their primary care physician.

"You want to make sure there is nothing else wrong if you are experiencing these symptoms," Burnside said. "At times, other health-related issues could cause the symptoms of seasonal affective disorder."

Dear Santa,

Hello! We are Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee Headstart and we are 3-5 years old. We have been very good this year and have been thinking of what we would like for Christmas.

teddy bear, tree, baby doll
- Paislee

spiderman toy
- Kase

batman toy, cage-batman, the joker
- Raymond

zippy sack, car, bean bag
- Tanner

tablet, blue remote control car, old remote car
- Kash

doll, car, EMS truck
- Aubrey

robot monkey
- McKynzie

sonic toy, ninja turtle, spiderman
- Isaiah

robot monkey, robot cat, robot dog
- Brilan

car, car, police car
- Monte

deer, owl, toy tree
- Parris

robot, elmo, tree
- Kaci

dog, deer, baby doll
- Kayla

games, baby doll, gun
- Kennedy

dinosaurs, car tracks, dancing toys
- Xaiden

christmas lights, car toy, some cards
- Malon

sandals, make-up, a bottle for caleb
- Zoe

toy, airplane, christmas time
- Joesph

elsa toys, candy, christmas tree
- Jazzmynn

sewing machine, barbie doll, purse
- Rylan

ninja turtles, batman guy, scooter
- Brandon

a big giant batman house, a big captain america, action figures
- Isaiah

i want everything from my dad, wreck-it ralph movie, playdough
- Hunter

snack and little doll, baby alive diapers, elsa toys
- Carmen

a big ole ninja turtle, a power ranger gun, playdough
- Dominic


flashlight, race car, window truck
- Duane
batman toy, spiderman toy, batman backpack
- Brayden
stuffed animal, toy reindeer, jingle bells
- Mackenzie
pony, unicorn, barbie dolls,
- Lynzie
frozen toy, barbie doll that works, dinosaur for my brother
- Jaylah
barbie house with barbies, elsa and anna, elsa's barbie castle
- Lola
barbie doll, magnets, barbie doll house
- MaKayla
ninja turtle, santa toy, barbie doll
- Mackenzlie
bike, helmet, a bag with a lot of presents in it
- Atti
dress and shoes, barbie doll, frozen doll elsa and anna
- Aleighyah
momma, trucks and cars, farm animals
- Ronald
toy truck, dump truck, firetruck
- Khilan
thomas the train toy, thomas the train movie, frozen movie,
- Christian
ninja turtle shreddar toy, ninja turtle game, football
- Ja'mir
power ranger, ipad
- Kyndrick
toy dog, red toy, barbie doll
- Britton
toy dumptruck, robot toy, tool set with hammer
- Ryan
paw patrol toys, tool set, dinosaur
- Max
batman toy, cowboy toy, basketball
- James
ninja turtle toy, ninja turtle movie, ninja turtle sewar house
- Ivan
baby doll bed, elsa and anna toy, ninja turtle toy
- Willow
little robot toy, socks, shoes
- Brentley
I am very excited for your visit and will leave out some snacks for you and your reindeer.
Love MCN Okmulgee Headstart



MANAGER MUSINGS

by Sterling Cosper

CONTENT PRIORITIES, STOMPDANCE ISSUE AND NEUTRALITY IN COVERING NATIVE NEWS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hello again readers.

This letter comes to you a lot faster than the time window between the first one I wrote in 2013 and the one that ran just recently announcing my new position as manager.

Moving forward, I want to use this as a way to communicate about certain things at our department and also others, which may pertain to the editorial side that may not fit into a formal story format.

Also, I want to continue writing and must simply just miss the paper already!

For this letter, I want to focus on our process and policies for content submitted to the paper.

The basic policy is that this material cannot be more than 800 words and contributors must include their full name, town of residence and whether or not they are a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

No content will be allowed that contains disparaging remarks or affects the political status of an individual at the tribe.

Submissions from non-citizens are acceptable but they are given priority after material submitted by citizens within the same general time window.

Contributions are generally placed after our ads, staff written content, material mandated for publication by tribal law, as well as community calendar and obituary entries, respectively.

Ads are placed first as citizens and those trying to reach them have paid for space in our paper to send their message. This is also general practice for most all publications.

Staff content is given second priority as this material typically has the broadest impact on our readers and generating content for our publication is why they were hired.

Material mandated for publication by tribal law is comprised of content such as tribal financials and court summons. This is prioritized in tandem with ads and staff content since it has a little flexibility to run in accordance with our schedule.

Community calendar submissions containing events and other information as well as obituaries are generally guaranteed to run in the next upcoming edition.

We dedicate a page or so for this material as an outlet for citizens to accommodate these generally shorter entries that are impactful on a grassroots level.

Submitted articles are generally placed as we have space after the previous content.

Keep in mind, we cannot simply add one page at a time to accommodate extra material but rather four, as this is how newspaper pages fold out into one on broadsheet.

It takes a substantial amount of time to fill this space on a tight semi-monthly production schedule.

While we may not be able to tell you exactly when your article will run given these facts, we should be able to give you a rough estimate based on our experience and the trends of material flow during that time.

But, this is an unpredictable business in so many ways.

Beyond all this, we do value contributions to our publication and wish to remain an outlet for citizens to directly share their opinions, experiences and whatever they feel is important.

If you have any more questions, our editor is the formal person to address these matters, however I can be reached at: 918-732-7697.

Right now, Media Coordinator Jessica McBride is doing a great job filling this role with support from our Graphics Supervisor Mark Hill, who is responsible for the recent facelift of the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Jessica can be reached at: 918-732-7762.

Did I mention we're still looking for an editor?

Call me if you are or know of a Muscogee (Creek) or Native American citizen who is savvy with Associated Press style and Adobe InDesign. You may also email me at: scosper@mvskokemedia.com.

We have heard a lot about the recent halt of indoor and benefit stompdances by the tribal administration.

Mvskoke Media received a statement from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General Kevin Dellinger that this action is to allow time for input from both sides of the issue to establish a formal policy moving forward.

We would like to hear from these sides, so contact us if you or someone you know have been impacted by this development.

We have also done our best in the past to respect the silent tradition of the grounds and would like to remind readers that our coverage may be affected by who is willing to go on record.

On the national front, the Standing Rock issue has turned a coner with the U.S. Department of the Army denying a permit to allow the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe in North Dakota.

Many of our citizens were involved up there throughout the height of the opposition effort and we continue to gather interviews and approach them for columns to share their experiences with you.

More on the topic of submissions? Yes, but I would also like to share our editorial stance on staff coverage of topics such as this.

We know our audience is primarily Muscogee (Creek) and Native American. However, we intend to stick to our mission of staying fair and balanced.

I would like to remind our readers that the best way to deal with an opposing stance is to understand it.

The most effective way we can provide you that information is by staying neutral, as it would be awful hard to get someone from the other side of a matter on the line if they think we're out to get them.

Well, enough musings for now. I hope the holidays have treated you well and to have some bigger more exciting things coming for you from Mvskoke Media as we move towards 2017!



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department is investigating a report of a stolen vehicle from the MCN Complex in Okmulgee, Okla. (Shutterstock Image)

LTPD INVESTIGATES PERSONAL VEHICLE STOLEN ON TRIBAL COMPLEX

VEHICLE LOCATED, RETURNED TO VICTIM

by JESSICA MCBRIDE
MEDIA COORDINATOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department is investigating a report of a personal vehicle stolen from the MCN Complex in Okmulgee.

A call to LTPD was made shortly after 10 a.m., Dec. 7 regarding an employee's missing vehicle from a parking lot near the Solomon McCombs Building.

The employee's information is being withheld for privacy reasons.

The employee returned from a meeting and noticed the vehicle keys were missing from their desk. The employee then noticed that their vehicle was no longer in the parking lot.

LTPD Cpl. Danny Beaver stated that there is surveillance video of the building during the time the vehicle was taken.

The suspect is described as a male, wearing a black hoodie and jeans at the time of the incident.

"This individual was seen in the hallways walking around for long periods of time," Beaver said.

The suspect was seen on video walking in the parking lot, entering the vehicle and driving away.

Beaver said the Okmulgee Police Department located the vehicle that afternoon and returned it to the employee.

He said to his knowledge, there was no damage to the vehicle.

Beaver recommended MCN employees and citizens remain vigilant regarding their surroundings and property, especially during the holiday season.

"There's so many people that's coming and going, requesting services through Creek Nation," Beaver said.

He urged employees and citizens to lock their vehicles and keep their personal belongings from being out in the open.

Beaver suggested employees report any odd activity.

"If you notice some people who don't belong there or seem out of sorts, I just want them to be able to call us and let us know that they're there and at least if anything, we can make sure we can help them if they're lost," he said.

LTPD can be reached at: 918-732-7800. In emergency situations, contact: 877-547-3390.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IICOT CHRISTMAS POWWOW SCHEDULED

TULSA, Okla. — The IICOT Christmas Powwow will be held Dec. 17 at the Tulsa Community College West Campus located at 7505 W. 41st St. S., Tulsa, OK.

The Gourd Dance is scheduled at 1 p.m., and Grand Entry scheduled at 5 p.m.

For more information call: 918-378-4494.

THANK YOU

The family of Anita 'Sue' Powell would like to thank those who attended the funeral service, cooked or brought food. A special thank you to Grace Hospice, Dawn Tyner, the Office of the Principal Chief and Second Chief, Creek Nation Lighthorse, and Penny Betsillie for their help. Thank you to Rev. Paul Tecumseh for officiating, Wotko Long, Merle Berryhill, Mark Randolph, the Wesley girls, the pastor of Newtown Methodist Church for letting us use their facilities and Robyn Whitecloud for singing a special solo.

A big MVTO to everyone else who helped, we apologize if we left anyone out.

To all of you we are deeply grateful!

–Sister, Sharon Whitecloud and Anita's daughter, Davena Powell

MCN WALKING PROGRAM SIGN-UPS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Walking Program is registering participants.

Individuals who are Native American, age 12 or older, living within the MCN jurisdiction, or a spouse or parents of a participant are eligible.

Register for the program by calling the contact for your area:

Koweta Clinic area communities: Taylor Thompson- 918-807-1561.

Okmulgee Clinic area communities: William Fixico- 918-758-5148.

Sapulpa Clinic area communities: Duane Meadows- 918-752-7949.

Eufaula Clinic area communities: Kimberlee Little- 918-637-9684.

Okemah Clinic area communities: Duane Meadows- 918-752-7949.

JOB OPENING MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS EDITOR

Summary: Responsible for the print and online version of the Muscogee Nation News. The general duties are: copy-editing, layout and design, writing, material organization, coverage assignments, staff coaching, inter-subsidiary coordination and online formatting.

Supervisory Responsibilities: Directly supervises MNN employees and carries out these responsibilities in accordance with Muscogee (Creek) Nation/Mvskoke Media policies and applicable laws, such as NCA 15-218, a new law to establish an independent media and to provide protections for the independent media.

Conducts prospective employee interviews; trains, rewards and disciplines them by appraising their performance and making recommendations to them and the manager; plans, assigns and directs work; addresses complaints and resolves problems.

Education and/or Experience: A bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or five years of experience in newsroom production. Must possess a working knowledge of best editorial ethics, semantics and practices. Registered Native American/Muscogee (Creek) citizen preference

Computer Skills: To perform this job successfully, an individual should have knowledge of Adobe software, especially InDesign and Photoshop; Macintosh computers and the Mac operating system (OS); Google and Adobe platforms; mobile OSs; WordPress; Microsoft Word and Excel; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram and LinkedIn.

Find this position to apply at: http://www.mcn-nsn.gov/employment/

Mission Statement: Mvskoke Media aims to be the voice of the Mvskoke people by distributing information to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation through its newspaper, radio show, TV broadcasts, graphic design and printing services.

In Memoriam



Catherine Jessie Helton Evans

March 4, 1997 - November 4, 2016

Catherine Jessie Helton Evans was born in Sapulpa on April 26, 1922 to Jess Newman Helton and Admiral Dewey Pearl Miller Helton. She attended Eufaula Elementary School and graduated from Chilocco Indian Boarding School in 1941.

She attended Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and Rogers State University in Claremore. She taught school at Kiefer and Mounds and did private tutoring in Kiefer and Sapulpa. She also taught neighborhood Bible study for children in Kiefer.

She married William C. Evans in 1942. He passed away in November 2005.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Marvin Helton, James Nathaniel Helton; sisters, Wanda Lou Chavez and Mildred Lee Bettis.

She is survived by daughters, Judy Gordon and husband, Floyd of Wynnewood, Linda Way and husband, Johnny (deceased) of Sapulpa, Rita Lee and husband, Ed of Beggs; brother, Newman Roe Helton and wife, JoAnn of Sapulpa; grandchildren, Evan Scott Lee of Claremore, Jeffrey Brett Lee of Nixa, Mo., Dietra Gayle Palacio, Coconut Creek, Fl., Paula Dawn Lee-Adams, Pompano Beach, FL, Jason Scott Way, Tulsa, Gina Lynn Way, Jenks; and 15 great-grandchildren; nieces, Margaret Williams, Illinois and Sharon Harris, Twin Hills; and three very special in-laws, Virginia Graham, and Ed; and Carolyn Evans.

She was a member of Victory Christian Center where she worked 14 years in the offering department. She was also a tribal citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Visitation was held Nov. 16, at Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St, Sapulpa, OK. Graveside service was held Nov. 17, at Green Hill Memorial Gardens, Sapulpa, OK with Memorial service following at Victory Christian Center, Tulsa, OK. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St, Sapulpa, OK.



Eldeen Anne Tecumseh

Eldeen Anne Tecumseh, 62, of Okmulgee, Okla., passed away Tuesday, Nov. 22, while in the company of family members, at St. John Medical Center.

Eldeen was born in Claremore, on April 19, 1954, a daughter of the late Wisey (Scott) and Israel Tecumseh.

Reminiscing about Eldeen, her family spoke of her love for her family and caring for others. She enjoyed dancing and reading. She never met a stranger because she talked to everyone she encountered and made them a friend.

Eldeen will be missed by her husband Raul Blanco; daughter Annette Hv'tke Powell; grandchildren Rowdey Osceola, Leah Hill and Lila Hill; siblings July Tecumseh, Paul Tecumseh, Ramsey Tecumseh, Emma Dominquez, Isabell Tecumseh.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings Nero Louis Tecumseh, Jeanette Washington, Katherine Tecumseh and Willis Tecumseh.

Visitation was Nov. 25 at Schaudt's Okmulgee Chapel 220 S. Alabama. Wake Service was Friday evening at Concharty United Methodist Church. Funeral Service was held at Concharty United Methodist Church at Nov. 26.

Burial followed at Tecumseh Family Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service & Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

To send flowers or a remembrance gift to the family of Eldeen Anne Tecumseh, please visit our Tribute Store at: https://schaudtokmulgee.tributecenterstore.com/?oid=1212992.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Rehabilitation Center hosted an open house event Nov. 15. The facility is located in Okmulgee, Okla. (Honey Caranzo/Reporter)

MCNRC HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

REHAB CENTER OFFERS AQUATIC THERAPY

by HONEY CARANZO
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Rehabilitation Center hosted an open house event Nov. 15.

During the public event, visitors were able to preview the MCNRC rooms and meet with the staff.

"I enjoyed getting around and seeing all the different things that they had . . . Everything was so nice and clean," Leon Wilson said.

MCNRC Acting Administrator Tim Hicks said that the objective of having an open house is to let the community know that the rehabilitation center is still open.

"We just want to ensure that everybody knows that we still are open, that we are still giving great care and we are still serving the public," Hicks said.

He said the only change to the facility in the MCN Department of Health reorganization plan was the removal of the small inpatient unit beds.

"We have the eight skilled nursing beds and we have the four LTAC (Long Term Acute Care) beds, so we have 12 inpatient beds still open," Hicks said.

He said only a small portion of the inpatient unit was closed.

Hicks said MCNRC also offers aquatic therapy.

"We have one of the biggest rehab gyms in the state of Oklahoma. So we give great care here . . . we're excited for the public to know we're open still and to continue to use our services," he said.

Hicks would like to hold an annual open house event for the rehab center.

MCNDH Marketing Manager Chris Coburn is working on various tactics to promote MCNRC.

"Part of our ongoing marketing efforts is we go to see physicians. A lot of the referrals we get for our hospitals are from nurses, case managers, people at the various hospitals, Tulsa and the surrounding area," Coburn said.

He said they are also trying to grow their outpatient services by going to other hospitals to see if they can get referrals.

For more information about MCNRC, call: 918-756-9211.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM
IS NOW OFFERING:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
& SUPPORT GROUP FOR SURVIVORS
OF DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE

MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND

GROUP OVERVIEW:
Personal growth, recovery and healing are a lifelong journey. This monthly women's group offers safe paths to healing while also honoring individual and cultural integrity. The focus is on creative expression through arts/crafts and on building community with other women with similar trauma histories. The group also seeks to help survivors of domestic and sexual violence by learning about trauma with a holistic healing approach. Many survivors can be hesitant to receive individual therapy, therefore support groups that incorporate a focus on alternative holistic healing can be a doorway to beginning the healing process. Women need support to heal from trauma. Part of the process in healing from trauma is developing connection and support with others. Many women are recovering from their traumatic experiences, and this group provides a safe space to explore their thoughts and feelings at their own pace. Healing from trauma can be challenging and our hope is that through group participation it is filled with creative expression and support from women in the group and others in their life.

WHAT IT IS:
Making art or creating crafts in a variety of media including drawing, sculpting, beading, collage, basket weaving, sewing, etc.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:
Arts and crafts offer survivors the opportunity to express themselves, and relate aspects of their traumatic experience or healing process without having to use words. Additionally, arts and crafts can enhance skills of self-care, connection with others and a connection to their own body, mind, and spirit.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Family Violence Prevention Program
918.732.7979 | dcostello@mcn-nsn.gov

SUBMISSIONS

CITIZENSHIP OFFICE'S IDENTITY VERIFICATION PROCESS

Citizenship Office release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Citizenship Office will be implementing a new verification process on Dec. 19. This process will include verifying a Muscogee (Creek) citizen's identity through primary and secondary form of identification (ID) or a stand-alone primary form of ID when the citizen is being issued a replacement citizenship ID card.

The mail-in process will accept color-copied IDs (excluding birth certificate/FS-240 form) as well as a notarized statement stating that the original documents were seen. The notarized statement and the color-copied document must be completed on the same paper.

This verification process will be conducted every time a citizenship ID card is being issued to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Due to the cause of identity theft and incidents of fraudulent cards being produced, this process will provide an additional method to protect the citizen's information and will continue to uphold the integrity that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship ID card has with state and federal entities.

This process will not interfere with any citizen's enrollment status, if by some chance a citizen cannot be issued a citizenship ID card until the appropriate form of IDs are submitted; the Citizenship Office will be more than happy to verify enrollment for the citizen through an enrollment verification to any other department or entity that may accept this form of verification. This enrollment verification process will be conducted on a department-to-department basis.

There will be a three-tier list of IDs that may be presented to the Citizenship Board office in order to be issued a replacement citizenship ID card. The Stand-Alone Primary IDs are made to be the only form of ID that does not have to be accompanied with a secondary form of ID.

If a Stand-Alone Primary form of ID cannot be presented then a Primary form of ID will be required with at least one Secondary form of ID. Please reference the following list to what will be verified as a form of ID for the Citizenship Office's Identity Verification Process:

Stand-Alone Primary Form of Identification

- State ID Card or Driver's License (no more than three months expired)
- Oklahoma Self Defense Act License (Concealed/Open Carry License) (no more than three Months expired)
- United States Passport (no more than three months expired)
- Out-of-state driver license
- An identification document issued by the United States Armed Services (Issued by the Department of Defense); one of the following:
- Military identification card
- Military dependent identification card

Primary Form of Identification (With a secondary form of ID)

- Birth Certificate
- FS-240 form: Consular Report of Birth Abroad

Secondary Form of Identification

- Any primary proof of identification, which is not used as the primary ID for a U.S. citizen
- For any person under the age of 18, an affidavit signed by the parent or legal guardian
- Identification Document issued by one of the following:
- Oklahoma public, private, or parochial secondary school
- Oklahoma institution of higher education
- Oklahoma technology center school
- Oklahoma employer
- Oklahoma gun permit
- Pilot license
- Oklahoma lifetime hunting or fishing license
- Oklahoma voter identification card
- Social Security card
- Health insurance card
- Motor vehicle registration or title
- Marriage certificate
- Separation or divorce judgment
- Professional degree, certificate, or license
- Deed or title to property in Oklahoma, including a burial plot deed
- Health, life, or home insurance policy issued to the applicant
- Automobile insurance policy or security verification form issued to the applicant
- A valid U.S.D.O.T. health card, as required by 49 C.F.R. Part 391
- Digital photograph comparison, if a Citizenship-generated digital photograph is already on file with the MCN Citizenship Office
- Military discharge (DD-214), unless specified not to be used for identification

RIP OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED CITIZENS

RIP Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program (RIP) is removing barriers to employment for citizens.

Valid driver licenses are necessary to gain and maintain employment. MCNRIP will pay the following for qualified citizens:

- License reinstatement fee
- ADSAC assessment
- DUI school
- Ignition interlock device installation and monthly fee

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens
- Previously incarcerated in county jail or DOC custody in the past four (4) years (judgment and sentence or supporting documents proving prior incarceration needed)
- Do not need to be a current MCN RIP client

Funds are limited and assistance will only be provided as long as funds are available, and won't be available after September 2017.

To apply for assistance please contact Kevin Green at: 918-652-2676.



(Submitted Photo)

FEDERAL GRANT ALLOWS PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES FOR MCN HEAD START

MCN PR release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start Program was awarded a one-time Health and Safety grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families in August. This grant was used to purchase three new 29-passenger buses.

These buses will be used at the Eufaula, Okemah and Tulsa centers.

Eufaula Center Lead Teacher Kay Romero said the center has had the same buses for the six years she has worked at the center. She also said the new bus will be able to help the low-income families they serve in different ways.

"Without these buses a lot of our kids would not have a way to school," Romero said.

Romero also said that the buses can be used to transport parents and children to health appointments if the family lacks transportation.

"Our FWS, field service worker, or center supervisor can take them to appointments," Romero said.

MCN Principal Chief James R. Floyd said that during the first months of his administration a programs needs assessment was done.

"A review of our programs identified the age and condition of our Head Start fleet as a critical issue that must be addressed as a priority," Floyd said. "We currently have 12 buses in the program and to date have managed to replace five older, high mileage buses with new ones and will continue to seek grants and explore other funding resources to complete this effort."

Floyd also said it was the Nation's responsibility to ensure the safety of students.

"These buses carry the Nation's most precious resource, our children, and we recognize the vital need and immense responsibility of transporting our students," Floyd said. "and will adhere to the strictest standards to maintain a high level of safety and dependable operation for the children and families we serve."

Two additional buses were purchased with an appropriation from the MCN National Council earlier in the year for the Checotah and Okmulgee centers.

The MCN Head Start Program is a multi-site program with a funded enrollment of 289 children and families and is organized under the MCN Department of Education & Training.



(Submitted Photo)

OKC THUNDER MASCOT 'RUMBLE' REPRESENTS DURING NATIVE AMERICAN NIGHT

by Neely Tsoodle
Non-Citizen
Cheyenne & Arapaho
Public Relations

OKLAHOMA CITY – It was Native American Heritage Night at the Oklahoma City Thunder game Nov. 16 when the Thunder hosted the Houston Rockets. The highlight of the evening was the beloved bison mascot 'Rumble.' His name became a roar when he came out sporting a traditional Native American ribbon shirt as part of the month long observance of Native American Heritage Month.

Chris Smith (Kiowa/Creek) who works for the Fox Sport Oklahoma broadcast crew kicked off some social media chatter about what Rumble should do or wear out of respect for his Native American friends. It didn't take long for the post to go wild with comments.

Immediately getting the big 'no' was the war bonnet-headdress reference. Many suggested the idea of Rumble proudly wearing a 'ribbon shirt.' Ribbon shirts are a standard traditional clothing article worn by Native American men socially and for traditional dances and ceremonies.

That ball got bouncing and two Native females stepped up to the plate to make Rumble's ribbon shirt. Gloria Tate (Kiowa/Comanche) and Mary Helen Deer (Kiowa/Creek) took on the challenge and measured Rumble's burly physique and came up with a masterpiece in Thunder fashion.

"I was personally nervous of the thought," said Tate. "I was worried about people liking it or saying something negative about it."

Deer was conscientious of the magnitude of being seen nationally.

"There have been so many people who have had mascot mishaps and, for the most part, it's been an insult. The Thunder organization had the sensitivity to inquire before they made any moves," Deer said.

Oh, the public like it all right! Rumble erupted on social media, his Facebook page alone got more likes, comments and shares than any other post he's ever had except for one: a recent worldwide social media experiment, called the 'mannequin challenge.'

"We wanted to celebrate Native American Heritage Night appropriately and by incorporating Native American traditions. Rumble's ribbon shirt was custom-created by members of the Kiowa, Creek and Comanche tribes, and we feel it resonated well with our fans and the Native American community," said Rumble.

He also posted on his Facebook site that he was proud to represent all tribes with his custom ribbon shirt. And custom it is with a little added flare.

"We had to think about it quick and hard and put it out of our mind the traditional way some and think of it as stage and showbiz or production," said Deer.

Deer and Tate made sure the color scheme of the fabric was a perfect match to the Thunder while, at the same time, paying close attention to original Native artistry.

Tate carries on the talents of her maternal grandmother who was a master seamstress. She had to laugh about the once-in-a lifetime experience.

"You always see Rumble running around, working the crowd. We had to find material that had some flexibility to it. We also wanted to see the ribbons flying behind him. He did wonderful and respectful." said Tate.

Both Tate and Deer said they cannot thank the Thunder organization enough for the thoughtfulness they gave the Native American community for taking the sensitivity of Indian Mascots seriously.

For Brian Byrnes, Thunder senior vice president of Sales and Marketing, the decision to recognize Native culture was simple: "We have always felt a deep connection with the Native American community, and we saw November, which is National Native American Heritage Month, as the perfect opportunity to celebrate and incorporate Native American traditions into our game programming.

"Last night, the National Anthem was performed by a member of the Comanche Nation, while the colors were presented by the Seminole Nation Honor Guard; our mascot Rumble the Bison wore a custom ribbon shirt as a tribute to all tribes in the region; and the Fancy Dancers, a dance troupe representing 39 tribes from across Oklahoma, brought traditional Native American song and dance to our fans at Chesapeake Arena."

While Native mascots have been a hotly debated topic for decades, on this November night, Tate explained, Rumble and his ribbon shirt seemed to have struck the right chord.

"We always hope to gain respect ... with his custom ribbon shirt, all I could do was scream and keep yelling and oh my goshing! It was an awesome sight," Tate said.

Rumble spent the first portion of the game in his ribbon shirt. Then the Native American Fancy Dance Troupe performed at halftime.

The Thunder won over the Houston Rockets 105 to 103.



Parents and coaches watch as Muscogee (Creek) senior Kyia Monahwee signs her letter of intent Nov. 18 to play softball at Northern Oklahoma College in Enid, Okla. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

CITIZEN TO PLAY AT NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE

MONAHWEE SIGNS TO BECOME A JET

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

MORRIS, Okla. — As the 1961 musical film West Side Story said, 'When you're a Jet, you stay a Jet.' Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Morris High School softball standout Kyia Monahwee made those wishes true.

She turned wanting to be a Jet into reality when she signed her letter of intent with Northern Oklahoma College – Enid Nov. 18 in Morris.

Monahwee first had her sights set north of Oklahoma in the neighboring state of Kansas when she took a few recruiting trips there but said that it was at NOC-Enid where she felt her potential could be best used at the junior college.

"Right off the bat, the coaches and I clicked," Monahwee said. "When I took the visit, I pictured myself there."

Monahwee also saw something in her new team that drew her to the school.

"They are hungry," Monahwee said. "They are going to do what it takes to get better and win, and that is what I want."

Head Coach of NOC-Enid Bryan Howard calls Monahwee a 'steal' for his program. He said he was watching another girl and Monahwee did something that shifted his focus onto her.

"We were watching another girl play and she was pitching that game," Howard said. "Kyia hit a homerun off of her and after that we knew we wanted her to join us."

Howard said that he has known Monahwee's high school coach, Jonathan Clay for a long time and trusts his opinion when it comes to new recruits for his softball team.

"He (Clay) knows what he is doing and knows how to make the girls on his team better for the next level," Howard said. "When he tells me there is a good one, I listen to him."

Howard expects Monahwee to excel at the college level and be very successful in his program.

"Once we get her started on our workouts, she is going to explode and do great things for us," Howard said.

Clay said he is excited for Monahwee to join the team and knows she will give her all. He said she has put in a lot of hard work and it is a great thing to see athletes sign with a school to extend their athletic career.

"She will be bringing a lot of talent to Northern," Clay said. "She still has a ton of potential that has not been touched yet. She is one of the players that gets better with the competition around her."

Monahwee would love to play second base, but said she has played all positions in softball and is fine with wherever her coaches want her to play.

"Playing second (base) would be great," Monahwee said. "If the coaches think I would be better then I am happy. I want to do what I can to help my new team win."

Monahwee's parents are LaTasha Monahwee and Marco Smith, Sr.

"Right off the bat, the coaches and I clicked. When I took the visit I pictured myself there."
- KYIA MONAHWEE ON HER VISIT TO NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE – ENID





The Lady Braves play year-round softball for one reason, they love it. (Darren DeLaune/Reporter)

YOUNG TEAM EXTENDS SEASON TO 365 DAYS

GIRLS TAKE FIELD NOT ONLY PLAY, BUT LEARN RESPECT

by DARREN DELAUNE
REPORTER

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The length of some sport seasons, mainly grade and high school, are only a certain few months of the year.

Basketball is usually a winter to early spring sport ranging from November-April, while softball can go from August-October and in the spring from March-May.

However, some people as well as some teams love their sport so much they will do anything to keep playing. In other words, they are playing year-round.

One 10-and-under softball team, the Lady Braves, plays 365 days of the year.

Coach Douglas Crowder said the girls on his team enjoy playing as much as they can.

"The team started in fall of last year (2015)," Crowder said. "I was asked to coach by a friend who is also coach of this team, Erick Starr."

Crowder said that he began with the team while they were at the coach pitch level.

He said the girls were slowly coming together as a team and he could see the motivation they had to get better.

"They tried and they never quit," Crowder said.

Both coaches felt that the girls wanted to keep playing and doing what they can to get better.

While they want the girls to improve and win each game, overall what they stress to the young ladies is sportsmanship.

Both coaches had that instilled in them at a young age and they hope to keep that going, as well as instill how sportsmanship is still a vital part of sports.

"We do not want our kids to argue calls from the umpire or argue at all with the other team," Starr said. "They have to understand that the umps have a job to do and the other team is doing what we are doing, trying their best to win. We need to learn to respect everyone during and after the game."

Starr said doing that has been paying off because there have been numerous people coming to them after the game and telling them how well-behaved the team is while playing.

"I feel that that is one of the most important things," Starr said. "We are going to win games and we are going to lose games but it is how we act whether we win or lose is what everyone is noticing."

Crowder explained how they play year-round softball. He knows the girls have other sports that they would like to do but they told the coaches they want to keep playing.

"During the spring, summer and fall, it seems like there is a tournament almost every weekend," Crowder said. "During the winter months, we will slow down a little bit and maybe go to one tournament a month. We are always playing."

Crowder said they will stay in northeast and central Oklahoma for their games.

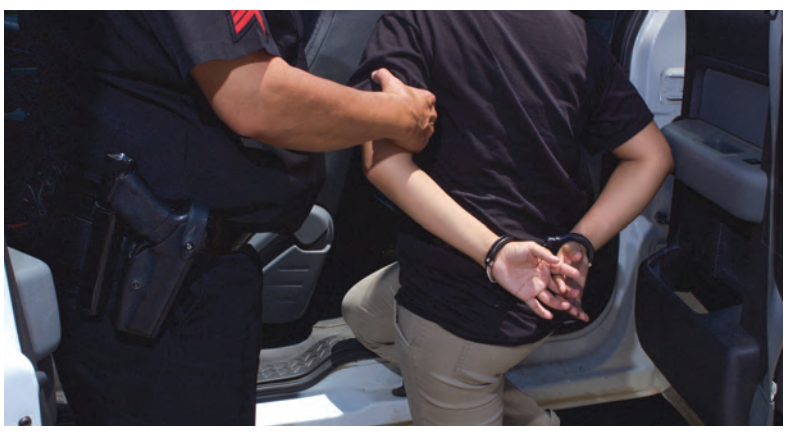
One of the highlights for this year was when they went to Kansas City, Mo. and won the USSSA Midwest National Softball Tournament.

"All these girls worked hard for that championship," Crowder said. "Every single one of them."

Crowder and Starr both plan on keeping the team together for as long as possible.

They said the girls want to keep playing and the coaches want to continue their success.

"These girls have taught us a lot on how we are as coaches," Crowder said. "They helped us to become better coaches, both Erick and I."



(MNN File Photo)

LTPD RELEASES NOVEMBER POLICE RECORDS

STAFF REPORTS

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department report for November 2016 was submitted to Mvskoke Media.

The report can be found by scanning the QR code with a smartphone, or by visiting: www.mvskokemedia.com/ltpd-november-police-records.

Contact LTPD at: 918-732-7800. In an emergency, contact LTPD at: 877-547-3390.



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